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MARCH 1, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 38 | INCLUDING BANGALORE TIMES AND TIMES FOOD & NIGHTLIFE AWARDS

PM Modi inaugurates Micron Technology's semiconductor plant at Sanand, makes strong pitch for India as a preferred investment destination: **'India is ready, India is reliable, and India will deliver'**, P18

Neil Sedaka, hit-making singer-songwriter whose boyish soprano and bright melodies made him a top act in the early years of rock 'n' roll and led to a second run of success in the 1970s, **dies at 86,** P 15

Pak's military, backed by artillery and air power, struck more military installations deep inside Afghanistan overnight and into early Saturday, **killing over 300 Afghan forces** in border clashes, says a govt spokesman, P 15

Sam Altman-led OpenAI says it has struck a deal for the Pentagon to use its models in the US defence agency's classified network with 'safeguards', after President Trump blacklisted AI rival Anthropic, P 15

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■ Iran's Def Min, Revolutionary Guards Chief, Khamenei's Kin Likely Dead In Strikes ■ India Seeks Safety Of 9m Citizens In Gulf Region As Conflict Spirals

US, Israel Unleash 'Epic Fury' On Iran

Iran Targets US Military Bases In Gulf, Israel In Retaliation

The United States and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on Saturday — 'Operation Epic Fury' — and US President Donald Trump called on the Iranian public to "seize control of your destiny" by rising up against the Islamic leadership that has ruled the nation since 1979.

Iran retaliated by launching missiles and drones toward Israel and US military bases in the region. Israel's military said Iran fired "dozens" of missiles, with many intercepted and no serious injuries reported. Barrages continued after sundown. Gulf states that host US bases also said they successfully countered the missile attacks. Reports at the time of going to press said Israel had launched a new wave of strikes targeting Iran missile launchers.

FULL COVERAGE: P 15, 18

Humanitarian organisation Iranian Red Crescent reported at least 201 people were killed and 747 wounded. It said 24 of Iran's 31 provinces were affected.

Waves of large explosions shook the Iranian capital, Tehran, starting around 9am local time — 1am in Washington — and witnesses described chaos in the streets as people rushed to seek shelter, find loved ones or flee the city. Israel's military said it had, in part, targeted a gathering of senior Iranian officials in the opening strikes.

Satellite imagery showed a plume of smoke and extensive damage at the high-security compound of Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader.

Though the status of Iran's leadership was not immediately known, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi told NBC News Khamenei and Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian, were still alive "as far as I know". Khamenei's son-in-law and daughter-in-law were believed killed as were Iran's defence minister Amir Nasirzadeh and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Gen Mohammad Pakpour. There was no confirmation from Tehran.

Even if Iran's top leaders are killed, regime change is not guaranteed. Neither the US nor Israel have articulated a vision for what new leadership might look like. Democrats decried that Trump had taken action without congressional authorisation. White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said the Trump administration had briefed several Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress in advance of the attack.

While the UN Security Council was set to meet, Araghchi in a letter said "all bases, facilities, and assets of the hostile forces in the region shall be regarded as legitimate military objectives". Iran requested an urgent session of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors about "these threats to safeguarded nuclear facilities", according to a letter posted by the semiofficial Tasnim news agency. The UN's nuclear watchdog said on X it was closely monitoring developments and had seen "no evidence of radiological impact".

Tensions have soared in recent weeks as American warships moved into the region. Trump said he wanted a deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme at a moment when the country is struggling with growing nationwide protests. The immediate trigger for Saturday's strikes appeared to be the unsuccessful latest round of nuclear talks. NYT & AGENCIES

▶Continued on page 15

TRUMP CALLS FOR OVERTHROW OF IRANIAN GOVT

> **Its (Iran's) menacing activities directly endanger the US, our troops, our bases overseas and our allies** throughout the world. **The lives of courageous American heroes may be lost** and we may have casualties. (To Iranians) When we are finished, take over your govt. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations
>
> —**DONALD TRUMP** | US president

> Our joint operation will create the conditions for the brave Iranian people to take their fate into their own hands
>
> **BENJAMIN NETANYAHU** Israel PM

> Trump has turned 'America First' into 'Israel First'... Time has come to defend the homeland... all bases, facilities, and assets of the hostile forces in the region shall be regarded legitimate military objectives —**ABBAS ARAGHCHI** | Iran foreign minister

- Shortly after 9am Tehran time, US and Israel launch attack, the **first apparent strike happening near the offices of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (right).** Iranian foreign minister says Ayatollah alive 'as far as I know'
- Explosions heard in multiple other cities across the country, including **Chabahar, Isfahan, Qom, Karaj, and Kermanshah**
- **Iran hits back** with missile attacks targeting US military bases in the region: Al Udeid airbase in **Qatar**, Ali Al Salem in **Kuwait**, Al Dhafra in the **UAE** and the US 5th Fleet headquarters in **Bahrain**

- **Dubai's Burj Khalifa evacuated** after explosions heard across city. **Fire erupts in Palm Jumeriah,** brought under control
- Iran's revolutionary guards say **passage of ships through Strait of Hormuz 'not allowed'**

Photo: Reuters

Smoke rises following an explosion in Tehran Saturday morning. Later in the day, Iranians hit the streets in the capital city to protest against the US-Israel attacks

Hormuz clamped, India moves to shield oil supplies

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New Delhi: Saturday's strikes put the spotlight on the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping route for India and other Asian countries, prompting officials here to activate contingency plans to safeguard energy supplies.

While keeping a close watch on the unfolding situation, they also have an eye on crude as the global benchmark Brent closed at a seven-month high of $72.9 on Friday. Prices are expected to spike after Saturday's attack. Supplies are unlikely to be hit immediately although shipments via the Strait were suspended.

Opec+ is meeting Sunday after Saudi Arabia and UAE raised exports in anticipation of the strikes. A modest increase in supply was planned.

The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran and links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, handling nearly 20% of the world's seaborne oil trade. India imports nearly 90% of its crude requirement — about 5.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) — and more than 40% of it comes from West Asia through this narrow passage.

▶Continued on page 18

Delayed shipments likely to hit businesses

Exporters are worried about disruption as shipments, both inbound and those headed to US and Europe, may get delayed. Ships may be forced to take a longer route and businesses will need to rework their schedules. P 18

India: Respect sovereignty; EAM dials Israel & Iran foreign ministers

India said it is deeply concerned over the developments, also stressing in its tough balancing act that sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be protected, **reports Sachin Parashar.** Foreign minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian and Israeli counterparts, Abbas Araghchi and Gideon Sa'ar, respectively, to reiterate India's call for dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate tensions. Jaishankar also spoke to his counterparts from UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain and sought their cooperation to ensure the well-being of Indians.

India is caught between its steady ties with Iran based on common regional interests and signs of improvement in US ties after turbulence. P 18

1,200 medical students from India stranded

Urging the Indian govt to prepare an evacuation plan, a J&K students body claims that close to 1,200 Indian students remain in Iran, **reports Kalyan Das.** In all, there are nearly 89 lakh Indians in the Gulf region, according to MEA estimates.

While nearly half of the Indian students studying in Iran had returned home after the Indian embassy in Tehran issued an advisory on Feb 23 asking nationals to leave, a significant number chose to remain as they had to appear for two exams conducted by Iran's ministry of health and medical education on March 5, Faizan Nabi, 22, Iran coordinator of J&KSA and a third-semester student at Kerman University of Medical Sciences in southwestern Iran, said. P 18

Strikes hit girls' school in southern town, 85 killed

At least 85 people were killed after a girls' school was struck in Minab in southern Iran, the local governor told Iranian state TV.

Workers are clearing wreckage from the site, where 63 others were injured on Saturday, said Iran's state-run IRNA news agency. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi shared a photo of the attack, which he said destroyed the girls' school and killed "innocent children".

"These crimes against the Iranian people will not go unanswered," Araghchi posted on X. Capt Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for US Central Command, said he was "aware of reports" that a girls' school was struck and they were looking into them. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has a base in Minab, in Hormozgan province.

In a separate report, Iran's Mehr news agency said at least two students were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a school east of Tehran. Neither the US nor Israel has offered any details on the campaign so far. AGENCIES

AFP

A video grab of the school attack taken from Iranian state TV

Flyers stuck at airports as 900 flights cancelled

Saurabh Sinha & Manju V

New Delhi/Mumbai: The attack slammed shut large swathes of Middle East airspace Saturday, paralysing the world's busiest east-west flight corridor, closing Dubai, cancelling hundreds of flights and forcing Indian airlines to halt operations to the region as regulators warned of grave risks to civil aviation.

Airspaces from UAE to Israel were closed, grounding hubs that funnel one-stop traffic between India and the West. Indian carriers cancelled all flights to the region through March 2. Tens of thousands of passengers were left stranded at airports, including Dubai, as schedules collapsed.

Cirium data showed nearly 900 Middle East airline flights cancelled Saturday, led by Emirates group, Qatar Airways and Etihad. Aircraft and crews from Indian carriers were stuck across the region. Air India worked to extract staff from Tel Aviv.

▶Continued on page 18

AP

People rush to take shelter as warning sirens sound in Tel Aviv

Know Namma Karnataka?

SCAN THE O!

Scan the QR & answer the quiz question. Correct answer will be revealed tomorrow!

*T&C Apply

Yesterday's answer: Harish Hande

EPFO may retain 8.25% interest rate

EPFO is likely to retain 8.25% interest rate for its 31 crore members this year. "Stock markets and equities have not performed up to the mark this year due to global volatility. Govt bond yields too have been tepid this year. Hence, income generated is expected to be lower," said a CBT member ahead of crucial meeting Monday. P 7

Above-normal heatwave in March-May: IMD

New Delhi: Above-normal number of heatwave days are expected over most parts of the country between March and May, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday.

These parts include West Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, south and east Maharashtra, east UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and north Karnataka and north Tamil Nadu.

In March, however, maximum temperatures are likely to be normal to below normal over many parts of India, except northeast, east, and some parts of Western Himalayan region, central and peninsular India. "This could be because rainfall averaged over India is most likely to be normal during March," IMD said. PTI

65L voters struck off, 6lL on hold in EC's final roll for West Bengal

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New Delhi: Around 60 lakh electors in West Bengal have been categorised as 'doubtful' by Election Commission, and their cases sent for adjudication by judicial officers appointed by Kolkata high court. This is in line with Supreme Court's directive dated Feb 20. With Assembly elections in state likely to be announced in second half of March, this means that it would be a race against time for the "doubtful" voters to be made a part of the electoral list.

Sources said the final electorate of West Bengal is around 6.4 crore, with a total 1.2 crore deletions since Oct 27, 2025 (15.9%). Of these, around 61.8 lakh were deleted on account of being deceased, shifted, migrated and registered at multiple places and another 60 lakh categorised as 'doubtful' voters under adjudication.

Such 'doubtful' electors, as and when their cases are approved by the court-appointed judicial officers, shall be added back to the state's roll by way of supplementary lists to be published later. Until then, these 'doubtful' voters will not be eligible to vote in any election.

A senior EC functionary told **TOI** that the majority of these 'doubtful' electors are likely to be illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. "Despite stiff resistance, SIR in West Bengal has been a huge success," said another official of the poll panel.

According to the rules, the electoral roll of a state is frozen 10 days before the last date for nominations in a Lok Sabha or assembly election.

▶Within deadline, P 11

'LIKELY TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS'

- A senior EC official says **majority of these 'doubtful' electors are likely to be illegal Bangladesh immigrants**
- Their **voting rights will be restored only if citizenship is confirmed** by judicial officers
- **If ruled as foreigners, they will be sent to detention centres** for deportation
- If cleared in time, they can vote in West Bengal **elections, dates** for which **may be announced in second half of March**
- At the start of SIR drive, Bengal had 7.7cr voters. **Excluding 'doubtful' voters, 6.4cr are confirmed final electorate in the list**

Prelim report in Pawar crash says SOPs ignored

Mumbai: Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, in its preliminary report on the Jan 28 Learjet crash at Baramati that killed then Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar, has flagged pilots' non-adherence to standard operating procedures, low visibility and absence of basic meteorological facilities at the uncontrolled airfield, **reports Manju V.**

The report said that the crew attempted visual landing despite being informed that visibility was only 3km. A minimum visibility of 5km is mandated for visual landing. The factors given in the preliminary report were put forth in the early narratives that emerged after the accident. The Learjet was operated by VSR Ventures.

▶Continued on page 9

20 killed in Andhra's worst cracker unit blast, victims mostly women

Samson Raj | TNN

Kakinada: At least 20 people were killed and 12 others were seriously injured on Saturday in a massive explosion at a firecracker unit at Vetlapalem village of Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district. This is the biggest tragedy in a firecracker unit in the state in recent history.

Fire officials said they were yet to identify the exact cause of the explosion. However, they suspect that large amounts of raw material, including charcoal powder, sulphur and potassium, was kept in the sheds of the unit and a small spark may have caused the explosion.

Police said while the unit owner, Adabala Nani, was absconding, his father Adabala Srinu was in the factory at the time of the blast and was among the victims. Officials said the toll could rise as many of the injured were unlikely to survive.

Most of the workers in the unit were women from nearby villages but their exact number is not known. Until now, the highest toll recorded at a firecracker unit blast in the state was in 2014 when 11 were killed.

▶Stockpiled chemicals, P 9

Courtesy: X

Officials suspect the unit may have stockpiled chemicals beyond the permissible 15 kg

3 suffocate to death in sump in Whitefield

Three people were killed on Saturday after they suffocated while attempting to clean an unused water sump in Whitefield. The victims included the homeowner, the plumber and a neighbour, who went into the sump to check when the other two did not come up. P 4

Tubectomy fails, govt aid sought to raise kid

A woman in UP's Jalaun district, who underwent sterilisation at a govt hospital in 2023 and later gave birth to a child, has now sought govt assistance for the child's upbringing. The CMO said a complaint has been received and an investigation was on. P 9

J&K's willow warriors complete rendezvous with Ranji, end 66-yr wait with historic title

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Hubballi: Until a few years ago, they were the punching bags of domestic cricket. Sport, however, has a way of rewriting destinies. On a searing Saturday afternoon here, Jammu and Kashmir's cricketers kept their date with history by winning their maiden Ranji Trophy title, an enormous achievement 66 long years in the making.

Up against fancied eight-time champions Karnataka, J&K hardly put a foot wrong over five days, clinching India's premier domestic red-ball title on the strength of a commanding 291-run first-innings lead. It was a triumph built on discipline and belief — the team out-batted, out-thought and tamed Karnataka in its own backyard.

As the match ended, an emotional CM Omar Abdullah captured the moment on his phone from the stands. The season's standout performer, seamer Auqib Nabi, was declared Player of the Tournament for his haul of 60 wickets.

▶Emerging sides, P 16

IANS

RED-LETTER DAY: CM Omar Abdullah celebrates with the team. He announced a cash reward of Rs 2cr for the players and support staff

PM hails team's 'grit, discipline & passion'

PM Modi congratulated the J&K team for their 'historic triumph' that reflected their 'remarkable grit, discipline and passion'. "It is a proud moment for the people of J&K and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there. May this feat inspire many young athletes to dream big and play more," he posted on social media.

India could soon get its first openly queer MP

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When Menaka Guruswamy walks into Parliament for the Rajya Sabha election in mid-March, she will possibly be the first openly queer person on the ballot. From the 2018 SC verdict decriminalising Article 377 to a possible seat in the Upper House has been a long journey. Trinamool Congress has nominated her.

Perhaps recognising the enormity of the moment, Guruswamy said on X, "I am deeply honoured to be nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the All India Trinamool Congress. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms. Mamata Banerjee for reposing her faith in me. Our Constitution's values of equality, fraternity & non-discrimination have guided my life & work, I hope to carry these ideals forward into Parliament."

▶Key in Bengal cases, P 11

Getty Images

Menaka (left) has been open about her relationship with fellow lawyer Arundhati Katju

1st govt staffer held in ₹590cr Hry bank scam

Panchkula: Haryana vigilance and anti-corruption bureau Saturday made a fifth arrest in the Rs 590 crore-bank scam involving govt departments. Naresh Kumar Bhuwani, 52, is the first govt official to be arrested in the case, **reports Sandeep Rana.**

Naresh worked as superintendent in the office of director, development and panchayat. He is a native of Jagram Bas district in Charkhi Dadri and a Mohali resident. According to ACB, Naresh had formed Swastik Desh Project along with the other accused to siphon money from Haryana govt accounts.

▶Key middleman, P 9

PEDESTRIANS & MOTORISTS ACROSS B'LURU STRUGGLE AS CROSSWALKS FADE, SPARKING SAFETY CONCERNS

ZEBRAS GO STRIPELESS

Hamsaveni N & Vindhya Pabolu | TNN

Bengaluru: "Where do we cross?"

It's a question pedestrians across the city are asking with growing frustration. As new roads and Metro lines take shape, zebra crossings seem to be vanishing.

A **TOI** inspection of several busy junctions found stripes worn out, encroached upon or missing altogether. In some spots, patchwork repairs had buried the markings; elsewhere, newly asphalted roads were never repainted. The result: pedestrians are left guessing and often sprinting through moving traffic.

The absence of zebra crossings isn't just a pedestrian problem; it puts motorists in a bind too. Traffic police mandate that vehicles stop behind the white line before a zebra crossing. Violations invite fines. However, many motorists say the stop lines and stripes are faded or barely visible, especially after dark, leaving them unsure about where to halt.

VEGA CITY MALL

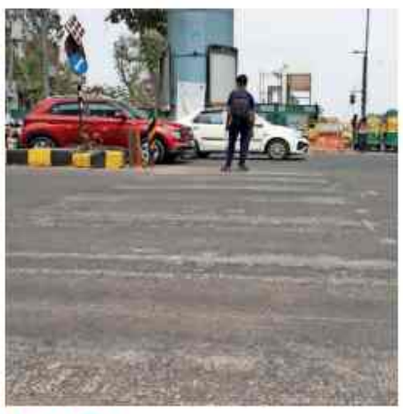
At the junction where Bannerghatta Road meets Outer Ring Road, traffic pours in from three directions. Ongoing Namma Metro work has worsened the congestion. Many describe negotiating this signal as a "big task", as speeding two-wheelers and buses pose a clear and present danger to children and elderly pedestrians. Some commuters say it takes more than five minutes to cross this less-than-10-metre stretch.

OLD HIGH GROUNDS CIRCLE

Even though a skywalk exists here, many elderly people and school students continue to cross the road at undesignated points. With heavy vehicular movement and cars speeding towards Vidhana Soudha and Palace Grounds, crossing the road poses a huge challenge. A traffic policeman said letters were written to the authorities, but drew no response, adding that traffic police officers often step in to help children and the elderly cross.

ANIL KUMBLE CIRCLE

At this prime junction with heavy vehicle movement, zebra crossings are hardly visible. Most of the washed-out portion is on the stretch next to the LIC building. Pedestrians attempting to cross or motorists trying to take U-turns here, often get caught by surveillance cameras because of unclear markings.



BRIGADE SIGNAL

On Residency Road, near Samsung Opera House, large crowds accessing both Brigade Road and Church Street use this junction. Towards Mayo Hall, the zebra crossing has been obliterated. Though concretising of the road was done recently, zebra crossings were not restored. A parallel signal near MG Road and Trinity Metro Station presents a similar scenario.

Pics: Muthu P, Syed Asif, TOI

BANASHANKARI

This is among the busiest junctions in the city, where commuters have to frequently switch between Metro and buses. College students and office-goers heading towards central Bengaluru, Uttarahalli and Outer Ring Road pass through this point daily. After recent asphalting, zebra crossings are largely absent, leaving pedestrians confused about where to cross the road from.

MARATHAHALLI BRIDGE JN

After a signal was installed on Old Airport Road, zebra crossings became crucial. Yet, there are no zebra crossings here. The markings did not last for long due to repeated patchwork. **TOI** observed pedestrians crossing abruptly in the absence of those white stripes.

DODDANEKUNDI JUNCTION

A new signal has come up on Old Airport Road, but zebra crossings are missing. Towards Marathahalli, nearly 80% of the stripes are no longer visible. Towards HAL, crossings are not marked at all. Only the stretch from Doddanekundi village retains about 50% of the paint.

RR NAGAR, NEAR GOPALAN MALL

On Mysuru Road, in the absence of a skywalk, this four-way junction is a critical pedestrian crossing point. Traffic from RR Nagar towards the highway and vehicles from Jnanabharathi towards the city converge here. With barely visible zebra crossings, pedestrians are at huge risk.

SHANTINAGAR BUS TERMINUS

Right at the entrance to the TTMC junction, nearly 70% of the zebra-crossing paint has faded on all four sides. This junction sees constant bus movement. With unclear markings, pedestrians, especially bus users, court danger trying to cross this busy intersection.

CITIZENS SPEAK

"Passing through Silk Board Junction is a hassle, as people walk or run across regardless of the signal. Once, while I was riding to work, a woman suddenly ran into the middle of the road. I almost hit her. With no proper markings, commuters don't know where to cross the road from
Mahesh A | RESIDENT, BTM LAYOUT

"It feels like we are risking our lives just to cross the road. In the past 10 years, I have never seen proper markings at Banashankari. At times, vehicles even stop right on the zebra crossing. Officials should regularly monitor and maintain these crossings
Kesari Prasad | RESIDENT, KANAKAPURA RD

"I have often noticed that most zebra crossings are right at the signal. These should be at least 10ft before the signal, so that both pedestrians and motorists know where to stop. On Bannerghatta Road, the markings have vanished, forcing pedestrians to step onto the road
TK Jagannathan | COMMUTER

"I travel nearly 40km daily. On many routes, zebra crossings are poorly marked. While at some points there are no painted stripes at all, at other places these are barely visible. This keeps two-wheeler riders guessing on where to stop. At times, cameras capture us and we are handed challans
Rishab Agrawal | COMMUTER

"In central areas, zebra crossings are slightly better, but on the outskirts they are barely visible. At night, when visibility gets worse, we simply can't see the stripes. I've received challans two times over this
Yashwanth | CAB DRIVER

"Lane markings and zebra crossings come under GBA's traffic engineering cell, not traffic police. But what work is actually done on the ground, no one really knows
Rahul Goyal | TRADER ON SJP ROAD

'Daylight dacoity': Court voids 18-day land acquisition

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Bengaluru: The high court has quashed the acquisition of 36 guntas of land at Devarabeesanahalli village in Bengaluru South taluk by Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) in favour of New Delhi-based Royal Fragrances Private Ltd. It was critical of the conduct of the state authorities, terming the process a "colourable exercise of power".

KIADB CASE

A division bench comprising Justices DK Singh and Tara Vitasta Ganju observed that the acquisition was mala fide, arbitrary and in clear violation of mandatory procedures. The high court noted that the petitioner company's application itself was incomplete and ought to have been rejected at the threshold. Instead, the land acquisition was processed with unusual speed.

"The land acquisition was a daylight dacoity on the lands of poor farmers by state authorities in favour of land sharks," the bench remarked. The court also set aside the earlier order of a single judge that had allowed the company's writ petition.

Royal Fragrances had challenged the state govt's March 18, 2009 decision and a May 23, 2009 direction to KIADB to denotify the 36 guntas of land. In March 2013, a single bench had ruled in favour of the company. However, landowner Patel Jetalal Ramaji and his family appealed the decision, leading to the present ruling. The division bench found that the single judge had failed to consider critical material. It pointed out that the company had submitted its application to Karnataka Udyog Mitra on Aug 30, 2001, and within just 18 days, the high-level committee had approved it. Several columns in the application were left blank, including details regarding the directors' background and technical expertise.

Explaining the doctrine of "eminent domain," the court said the state's sovereign power to acquire private property must be exercised strictly for public purpose and within constitutional limits. The court concluded that the state cannot use its powers to divest farmers of land in a mala fide manner for private gain.

Land bank charge

The preliminary notification was issued on Dec 10, 2001, followed by a final notification on Feb 23, 2004. The bench said the speed and manner in which the acquisition was processed suggested a stage-managed exercise intended to create a land bank for private real estate benefit at the cost of farmers and public interest.

Only 1 single-trip special train to Mumbai for Holi

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Bengaluru: With travel demand surging ahead of Holi festival, hundreds of passengers travelling between Bengaluru and Mumbai continue to wait for a reliable rail option as only a one-time special train has been announced so far by South Western Railway (SWR).

Despite repeated demands from passenger groups for a daily superfast train connecting the two cities, the railway zone has allocated only a single-trip special service. The train, scheduled to depart Sunday evening, will be a non-air-conditioned express, offering limited relief during the peak festive rush.

The special train will leave Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) at 7.30pm Sunday and is expected to reach Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Mumbai) at 11.30pm the following day, covering the journey in 28 hours and 30 minutes. The relatively long travel time has drawn criticism from commuters who were expecting a faster alternative.

28-HOUR JOURNEY

The train will stop at Chikkabanavara, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davanagere, Harihar, Haveri, Hubballi, Dharwad, Londa, Belagavi, Ghataprabha, Miraj, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Pune, Lonavala, and Kalyan stations.

More than three months ago, the railway board notified a bi-weekly express service between Bengaluru and Mumbai in response to passenger demand. Although the proposed service faced criticism for its limited frequency and slower schedule, it was seen as an alternative to Udyan Express. However, the service is yet to be operationalised.

SWR officials said the bi-weekly train has not been cancelled and will be introduced once timetable coordination between zones is finalised.

Cops shoot at rowdy murder suspect

Bengaluru: Police shot at and injured a 28-year-old youth, identified as the prime suspect in the murder case of a rowdy. Ranjan was allegedly involved in the attack on Pavan Kumar, who was hacked to death in front of his mother outside his Thanisandra residence on Feb 25 night. Sampigehalli police shot at Ranjan around 6am Saturday when he attacked them while they tried to arrest him. Ranjan sustained bullet injuries on his knee. TNN

Lover stabs gym trainer, surrenders

Police at Bidadi station were stunned Thursday night when a 30-year-old woman walked in and calmly confessed to stabbing her former boyfriend with a kitchen knife.

The woman, identified as Sudha, reportedly told police officers in a casual tone: "He could be dead now; his intestines had come out during the attack."

Sudha was taken into custody and a police team rushed to the victim's residence at Silk Farm, Bidadi. They found 26-year-old Venugopal, a gym trainer, suffering from severe stab wounds in his abdomen and hands. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors said he is stable and responding to treatment.

Sudha, a private firm employee, was arrested on charges of attempted murder and remanded in judicial custody at Ramanagara district prison. Sudha said she and Venugopal were in a relationship for two years. "But Venugopal started ignoring me, which made me insecure," Sudha told investigators, adding: "For the last 10 days, he stopped taking my calls or replying on WhatsApp. I suspected he was seeing someone else."

Sudha went to his house Thursday night and when Venugopal attempted to walk away, she attacked him with a kitchen knife she had brought from her home. TNN

Showing up, breaking down: AI fears, tough market push up presenteeism

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Bengaluru: Seized by fears of artificial intelligence-triggered job losses and a rough job market, working professionals are embracing presenteeism. They're showing up at work every single day despite challenges like exhaustion, anxiety and depression. After a grind of daily stand-ups and odd-hour client calls for months and years, employees become a case study for mental health professionals.

HEALTH OF MIND

These silent struggles drag on. Until burnout finally explodes or sickness manifests physically.

"There has been a rise in presenteeism as many employees continue to function outwardly while struggling internally, often masking their symptoms to meet certain expectations. This pattern is common in high-pressure, performance-driven environments where productivity is valued more than well-being, leading individuals to push through distress instead of pausing and seeking help," said Dr Darshan Yallapa Jotibannad, consultant psychiatrist, Sparsh Hospital, Infantry Road.

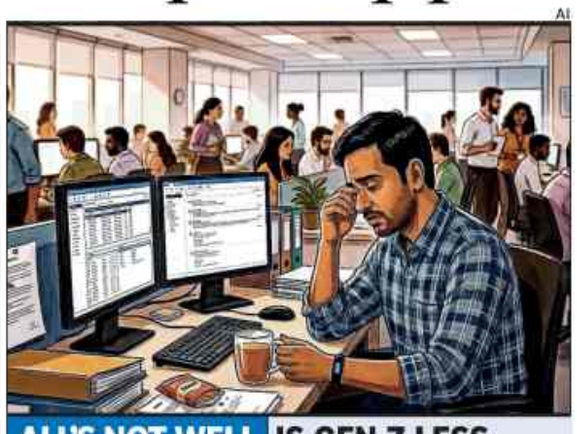
How does mental exhaustion affect productivity? Neha Cadabam, senior psychologist and executive director at Cadabams Hospitals, broke it down: "The presentation depends on the job. For roles needing creative thinking or strategy, mental health issues definitely take a toll. If it is a monotonous task, it gets done mindlessly. Quality might drop, coffee breaks might increase, or a person might sit in front of a computer without truly investing hours."

Dr Girishchandra BG, medical director and senior psychiatrist, Maarga Mind Care, said: "Since there is no visible physical abnormality, mentally ill persons come across as 'okay' and others assume they are functioning normally. But their overall functioning deteriorates — their communication skills, concentration, ability to interact, and judgment get influenced by their state of mind. A person with depression, anxiety or other illnesses has a reduced capacity."

Presenteeism is not new, but workplaces have evolved — sensitive managers, company-sponsored counselling, and even dedicated mental health leave in some organisations. Yet, according to clinicians, employees still baulk at claiming it.

"If an employee takes a mental health day off and returns the following day, a manager might ask, 'You took a mental day off — what happened?' Those kinds of questions can feel intrusive or stigmatising. Employees worry about what people may think of them," Neha explained.

Experts favoured greater normalisation of mental health issues. Dr Darshan said, "This includes formal mental health leave, flexible working hours, realistic load of work and visible load of leadership. Training managers to recognise burnout, encouraging regular breaks, and providing access to counselling services can create psychological safety, allowing employees to rest and recover before exhaustion turns into long-term illness."



ALL'S NOT WELL

- Amid job insecurity and AI-triggered layoff concerns, many professionals are showing up daily despite exhaustion, anxiety, and depression — masking distress until burnout or illness surfaces
- With no obvious physical symptoms, many such employees appear "fine" but experience reduced overall functioning, especially those battling depression and anxiety, say doctors

IS GEN Z LESS INSECURE?

Many people in their 30s and 40s, weighed down by finances and family, hesitate when it comes to dealing with mental health issues. But Gen Z appears to be bolder. "Gen Z is much more open to using support systems, whether it's counselling or employee-assistance programmes — they actively seek them out. When they don't feel well, they are upfront with their line managers. They seem less insecure," Dr Girishchandra said.

Student alleges rape, couple & principal held

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Three people — a couple who run a private residential school in Devanahalli, northeast Bengaluru, and the principal — have been arrested under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, following allegations of sexual assault by a class 8 student.

The school has around 600 students studying in classes 1-10, including 150 girls.

The case was booked after the 14-year-old student and her parents approached police Friday, accusing the school owner of sexually assaulting her, and claiming his wife and the principal failed to intervene. Cops have arrested the school owner on charges of raping the survivor while his wife and the principal are charged with assisting in the crime. Police said they have interacted with other students to check if there were other such incidents.

"For the last eight days, he continuously sexually assaulted and raped me. When I sought help from his wife and the principal, they said such acts are common these days and told me not to speak about it," the girl stated in her complaint. The survivor claimed she was called to the warden's office at night. "The school owner, in an inebriated condition, summoned me to the room and raped me. Unable to bear the torture, I told everything to my parents," she said.

FORM IV
(See Rule 8)

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*Indicative rental yields based on executed and prevailing market benchmarks. Infrastructure timelines subject to change. Terms & conditions apply.
Sources: Times of India, Economic Times, Union Budget 2026

From Iran to Alipur: West Asia conflict worries K'taka village

As Sirens Sound Abroad, Kin In Panic Mode

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

File photo

CONNECTED: Alipur village, with a sizeable Shia Muslim population, has considerable educational, cultural and business ties with Iranian cities

Bengaluru: Amid the escalating conflict in West Asia, anxiety has gripped Alipur, a small village about 75km from Bengaluru, as nearly 60 residents in the hamlet are currently in Iran for studies, business, and pilgrimage.

Community leaders said that, as of Saturday, all those from Alipur were safe. Students pursuing MBBS and other courses are staying inside their hostels, where communication lines remain functional. Several others, mostly engaged in business activities, are based in Tehran, while a few villagers are in Mashhad on an annual religious pilgrimage.

Ali Abbas, president of Anjuman-e-Jafria Alipur, said the organisation is in constant touch with those in Iran. "At present, everyone is safe. We are regularly verifying their locations and ensuring they are in secure places. They are in touch with their families back home. Most of them are staying at different locations across Iran," he explained.

He added that the community is coordinating with Karnataka govt. "We are primarily in touch with the state govt, and in case the situation escalates, arrangements are being worked out for their safe return," Abbas said.

Alipur, located in Gauribidanur taluk of Chikkaballapur district, is among the very few Muslim-majority villages in Karnataka, with Shias accounting for 99% of the population. The village shares long-standing spiritual, cultural and educational ties with Iran, with several local institutions established with support from Iranian agencies. One of the most notable moments in this relationship was the visit of Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, who visited Alipur in 1981-82 to inaugurate a hospital built with assistance from the Iranian govt.

B'luru families concerned

Tensions in West Asia also sparked worry among families in Bengaluru with relatives living in the Gulf region. A 25-year-old resident of Electronics City said he constantly checked on his uncle, who has been based near Abu Dhabi for over a decade. "I called him to check on the situation; fortunately, he is safe at present. He went there long ago for better work and pay. His entire family is there, but at the cost of what? I can only hope he remains safe."

A 24-year-old student from Hulimavu expressed concern for her pregnant sister living in Dubai. "We are concerned about her safety now. Even though no attacks have happened in Dubai so far, I'm still worried. They can't even come back because attacks are happening in very close areas," she said.

A 50-year-old man from Madivala, living in Haifa, Israel, for eight years said sirens had sounded multiple times and residents were instructed to remain inside safety rooms for two to three days. "We are panicking because of the shelling, but we are following govt instructions. I had planned to return to Bengaluru in April, but stepping out is impossible now. My family is worried," he said.

A woman from HAL II Stage said her husband, who works in Abu Dhabi, said he is safe. "He doesn't want us to move there because of recurring conflicts. Still, we are anxious, and my children are worried about their father," she said.

19 flights cancelled, Gulf passengers hit

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Flight operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) witnessed significant disruption over the weekend, with 19 international services cancelled between Saturday and Sunday. According to sources at the airport, the cancellations largely affected routes connecting Bengaluru with key West Asia destinations, particularly Dubai and Abu Dhabi, impacting hundreds of passengers travelling to and from the Gulf.

According to an internal status sheet reviewed by **TOI**, 10 outbound flights from Bengaluru were cancelled, along with nine inbound ones. The affected sectors included Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam. A majority of the cancelled services were operated by IndiGo, followed by Air India Express and Emirates, while one Etihad departure was also impacted.

Airport officials indicated that UAE routes bore the brunt of the disruption, accounting for more than half of the total cancellations because of airspace restrictions across the region. "This level of cancellation concentrated on Gulf sectors is not routine. It appears to be linked to airspace restrictions and operational adjustments rather than any weather-related events," an airport operations source said on the condition of anonymity.

The disruption spanned late-evening departures Saturday and early-morning arrivals and departures Sunday, suggesting a cascading impact on aircraft rotations.

A ground-handling executive at the airport explained that international operations are tightly sequenced. "When an incoming aircraft is delayed or cancelled at origin, the outbound leg from Bengaluru is immediately affected. That ripple effect can continue into the next operational cycle," the source said.

Passengers at the airport reported confusion and last-minute schedule changes, with some learning of cancellations after arriving at the terminal. Airline officials confirmed rebooking arrangements and alternative options were provided. "Passengers are being accommodated on the next available services or offered refunds as per policy," an airline representative said.

Officials maintained that overall airport operations remained normal and that the disruption was confined to specific international sectors. A dedicated passenger help desk has been set up at the kerbside (Level 3) of T2 to assist travellers.

II PU EXAMS BEGIN IN K'TAKA WITH 97% ATTENDANCE

Pics: Muthu P

PLAIN SAILING ON DAY 1: The II pre-university examinations had a smooth kick-off Saturday, with more than 4.9 lakh students appearing for Kannada and Arabic papers across Karnataka. Around 5.1 lakh students had registered for the exams. The highest attendance was reported in Udupi district (99.6%), and the lowest in Bidar (90%). There was no case of malpractice reported from any exam centre

Be kind and feed dogs: Sudha Murty

Bengaluru: Philanthropist and Rajya Sabha MP **Sudha Murty** has appealed to the public to show compassion towards animals, especially street dogs, and encouraged people to feed them regularly.

As part of a podcast hosted by Bengaluru police, Murty spoke about her Golden Retriever, Gopi, and emphasised the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the belief that the world is one family.

"Not just humans, birds, animals and plants make a family. That is why we term it Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Please remember that among animals, the dog is very close to human beings. Dogs require love more than food. They understand you. When you are angry, they understand; when you are happy, they understand," she pointed out.

Narrating an incident involving Gopi, whom she affectionately calls her "grandson", Murty said, "One day, I was walking on the road, and Gopi, who was coming with someone else on the other side, saw me. Suddenly, he crossed the road and ran towards me. I panicked, thinking a speeding vehicle could hit him. But for Gopi, it was pure love."

She said it is beneficial for children to grow up around pets. However, acknowledging that not everyone can keep a dog at home, she urged people to care for strays in their neighbourhoods. "When you cook rice, add one cup in their name; when you make roti, make one extra. Street dogs wander from place to place looking for food... please have a kind heart towards them," she said. TNN

3 suffocate to death while cleaning unused sump

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A routine attempt to clean an unused water sump in anticipation of harsh summer ended in tragedy, as three men suffocated to death inside the confined structure at Immadihalli temple circle in Whitefield Saturday evening. The victims are house owner Muniswamappa, 67, plumber Rudra Kumar, 40, and food-delivery agent Vishwanath Achari, 27.

According to preliminary probe, Muniswamappa had entered the unused sump to clean it with the help of Rudra Kumar, allegedly using chemical agents. When the two failed to come out or respond to calls from family members, concerns grew. Achari, who lived in the opposite house, was requested to step inside the sump to check on them. However, Achari too did not return or respond, prompting residents to alert police. A Hoysala patrol vehicle reached the spot. "Sensing the three might have suffocated due to toxic fumes, a Hoysala staff member wore an oxygen mask available in the patrol vehicle and entered the sump. He found all three lying motionless. With the help of others, the three were pulled out and rushed to nearby hospitals. But they were declared dead," a senior police officer said.

Muniswamappa was a retired private company employee. Achari, who got married last year, was expecting his first child next week.

No primary school should be closed: Writer

Bengaluru: Amid controversy over the closure of govt schools, writer Baraguru Ramachandrappa Saturday said no primary educational institutions should be shut down.

Speaking at the state-level educational convention and golden jubilee celebrations organised by Karnataka State Govt Primary School Teachers' Association, Ramchandrappa said, "Preserving primary education means preserving the very foundation of education. That should never face a threat. Let us build an education system in which there is neither murder nor suicide of primary schools."

"The education minister said not even one school will be closed. Let us trust him. But some still say schools are being closed. Which is the truth? If the truth is to be known, there must be mutual discussion," he pointed out.

At the meeting, CM Siddaramaiah promised to promote graduate teachers and also implementing the old pension scheme. "If education with rationality and scientific spirit is given to all kids, a secure society and country can be built. Prepare children who can shape the future," he said. TNN

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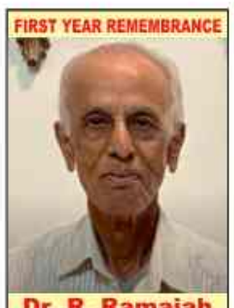

Dr .R .Ramaiah
DOB- 14-05-1935 - DOD- 01-03-2025
Retd Prof and Head of the Agricultural Engg division, GKVK Bangalore
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Cremation on 01-03-2026 at KR Puram Hindu Crematorium
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28th March 1925

Leela Moulik
1st March 1921

Aloka Moulik Chatterjee
28th February 1940

Achala, Family and Friends

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE
Sri Aroor Sripathi Rao
1st August 1924 - 1st March 1992

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A guiding force.
A legacy that endures.
With profound respect,
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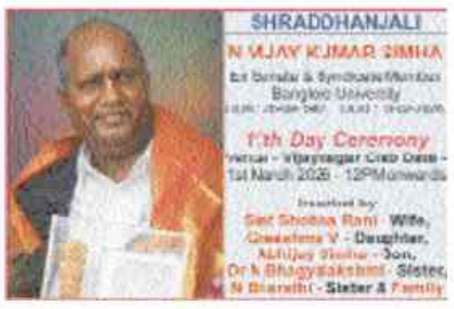
4th Year Remembrance
C.H. SREEDHARAN
01-03-2022
Remembering a dedicated husband and father who celebrated life to its fullest. A voice we love is stilled. A place is vacant in our hearts that never can be filled.
Deeply mourned by wife, sons, daughters in law, grand children and relatives.

18th Death Anniversary
In loving memory of
T.M. SUBRAMANYAM (RAJANNA)
15-8-1952 * 1-3-2008
You are not with us. But you are always in our Hearts.
Remembering and Missing you
Wife, Children and Grand Childrens



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Capital spend lags at 46% as K'taka revenue outgo surges

Skew Raises Concerns Of Year-End Rush to Utilise Funds

BV Shivashankar & Chethan Kumar | TNN

Bengaluru: With chief minister Siddaramiah set to present his 17th budget on March 6, the state's spending pattern in the current fiscal year points to a widening gap between capital and revenue expenditure.

GOVT TARGET AND REALITY

Revenue & expenditure	Budget estimate 2025-26	Actuals till Jan 2026
Revenue receipts	₹2.9 lakh crore	₹2.2 lakh crore
Capital expenditure	₹71,336 crore	₹32,847 crore
Revenue expenditure	₹3.1 lakh crore	₹2.2 lakh crore

Source: Finance dept | Figures rounded off

"Efforts are on to fulfil the expenditure commitment proposed in the budget. There are practical challenges considering revenue slowdown driven by ill-timed GST rate rationalisation and choked fund flow from the Centre. We will maximise spending before the end of the current fiscal

Basavaraj Rayareddi | CM'S ECONOMIC ADVISER

The 2025-26 budget projected total revenue and capital expenditure, excluding debt servicing, at over Rs 3.8 lakh crore. As of Jan 2026, the state govt spent nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore — about 65% of the estimated outlay.

However, capital expenditure has lagged significantly. Of the Rs 71,336 crore allocated for capital works, only 46% — Rs 32,847 crore — has been utilised so far. In contrast, of the Rs 3.1 lakh crore earmarked for revenue expenditure, which includes salaries, subsidies and interest payments, around 69% has already been spent.

The 46% capex is for the original outlay made in the budget in March 2025. In the interim, the govt revised the outlay for capital expenditure to Rs 83,000 crore, before revising it downward to around Rs 72,000 crore.

Chief minister's economic adviser Basavaraj Rayareddi said the govt is working to step up spending during the rest of the fiscal. "Efforts are on to fulfil the expenditure commitment proposed in the budget. There are practical challenges considering revenue slowdown driven by ill-timed GST rate rationalisation and choked fund flow from the Centre. We will maximise the spending before the end of the current fiscal."

An analysis of the numbers shows that of Rs 2.5 lakh crore spent till Jan, 86.8% — nearly Rs 2.2 lakh crore — has gone towards revenue expenditure. The skew has triggered concerns over a possible year-end rush to utilise funds, which often raises questions about the quality of expenditure and pace of project implementation.

BDA Satya Babu Bose, director, Centre for Rural Studies and Development, said: "Missing the expenditure target means that development has taken a hit. The govt in any case, cannot reduce the committed expenditure, which is the largest component of revenue spending."

On the receipts side, the state had estimated revenue of over Rs 2.9 lakh crore for 2025-26, excluding borrowings. This included nearly Rs 2.1 lakh crore from the state's own taxes, Rs 16,500 crore from non-tax sources and Rs 67,877 crore from central transfers. As of Jan, revenue realisation stood around Rs 2.2 lakh crore.

With expenditure touching Rs 2.5 lakh crore, the gap of nearly Rs 30,000 crore has been bridged through borrowings. A key concern remains that a large portion of borrowed funds is being used for revenue expenditure rather than asset creation. The state is slated to spend Rs 45,600 crore on interest payments alone under revenue expenditure this fiscal.

Take for instance the crucial water resources department. The govt allocated only Rs 18,828 crore in the 2025-26 budget of which only Rs 8,846 crore was meant for capex, with Rs 7,000 crore already having been spent.

While this department shows nearly 80% spending, officials pointed out that the department needed Rs 90,000 crore for ongoing projects alone, but the allocation was barely 20% of that.

"For the next fiscal, we will request at least Rs 60,000 crore," an official said.

Bose added: "...Whenever the govt wishes to cut down spending, it reduces capital expenditure. There are multiple reasons for this. Those include ambitious projections in the outlay not proportionate to reality in terms of revenue, and the govt ending up revising it downwards at the end."

Woman's suicide attempt with 2 kids thwarted

Bengaluru: Swift response by a Hoysala police team saved a 28-year-old woman and her two children after she allegedly tried to jump in front of a train near Agrahara Layout in Sampigehalli Saturday. She later told police she was a victim of domestic violence by her alcoholic husband.

Residents heard children crying and looked out of their houses to find the woman seated on the railway track with the two minors. They called the police control room and a Hoysala patrol team rescued them. TNN

State recruitment uncertainty dents govt job dream in Dharwad's 'Kota'

TOI

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SPOT OF LEARNING: A view of Saptapur, which has emerged as a hub of coaching centres in Dharwad; (R) Students attending a session

Dharwad: A cluster of narrow streets in Saptapur has evolved into one of north Karnataka's largest competitive exam coaching hubs, with nearly 45 to 50 institutes operating from rented buildings and drawing thousands of govt job aspirants every year.

Often dubbed Dharwad's 'Kota', the locality recently came into focus after coaching centres played a key role in mobilising candidates for a large rally, demanding filling up of over 40,000 vacant posts across state govt departments. For the second time in six months, aspirants staged a massive demonstration, prompting the state govt to announce plans to recruit more than 50,000 candidates over the next year.

Graduates, postgraduates, engineering students preparing for various central and state services and allied posts, and teachers' recruitment examinations reside in Dharwad for coaching. Many are also enrolled in postgraduate courses at Karnatak University and nearby colleges, using the city as a base camp for long-haul preparations.

Most aspirants come from farming and lower middle-class families and prefer Dharwad over Bengaluru due to lower living costs.

However, owners of these coaching centers admit that uncertainty over state recruitment in recent years has affected both preparation plans and the stability of the coaching ecosystem.

Over the years, Saptapur has developed into a self-contained ecosystem. Coaching centres function from rented premises, while eateries, hotels, stationery shops, hostels, paying guest accommodations, 24-hour libraries and mess facilities cater to these job aspirants and students.

Some institutes provide in-house hostel and mess facilities. Several centres also operate mobile applications and YouTube channels to attract aspirants from Kittur Karnataka, Kalyana Karnataka, the coastal districts, Tumakuru and Davangere.

Laxman Uppar, founder chairman of Classic KAS and IAS study centre, said Saptapur's transformation began when students who could not secure university hostels started staying in paying guest accommodations in the area. He said he started coaching classes for teachers' recruitment and Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF) entrance examinations in 1997-98 and moved his operations to Saptapur in 2009-10.

He said the stretch from KCD Circle to Srinagar Cross has evolved into a coaching hub over the past 15 years. The institute also publishes 'Spardha Spoorti', a monthly general knowledge magazine for competitive exam aspirants.

Veeresh Meeti, the coordinator of Gurudev Coaching Centre, said most institutes focus on police sub-inspector (PSI), police constable (PC), first division assistant (FDA), second division assistant (SDA), and teachers' recruitment exams.

Due to limited state recruitment over the past three-four years, centres have moved their focus to staff selection commission general duty (SSC GD), multi-tasking staff (MTS), railway recruitment board (RRB) non-technical posts, Group D central govt jobs and banking examinations.

Siddanna Dalwayi, founder director of Spardha Genius Academy, said absence of a recruitment drive for state govt jobs has forced many candidates to return to their native places.

He said earlier, enrolment ranged between 600 and 800 students in small and medium institutes and 1,000 to 1,500 in larger centres. Currently, numbers have fallen to 100 to 150 in smaller centres and 500 to 600 in larger ones. Some institutes are struggling to meet rent and staff salary expenses, he said.

Drug distributors oppose govt order on batchwise certificates

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A recent govt order mandating pharmaceutical wholesalers to obtain batch-wise certificates of analysis (CoA) for every drug purchase from manufacturers drew strong objections from pharmaceutical distributors in Karnataka.

A CoA is an official quality document that confirms a specific drug batch was laboratory-tested and met required safety, purity and specification standards before release or sale.

In the govt order, Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) directed that wholesalers must obtain a CoA for every batch of medicines procured, as part of efforts to strengthen quality control and regulatory oversight in the pharmaceutical supply chain. The order said the decision was taken following maternal deaths in the state last year and the cough syrup fiasco in Madhya Pradesh.

However, in a representation submitted by Karnataka Pharma Retailers & Distributors Organization (KPRDO) to the dept Saturday, pharmacists argued that the directive is impractical and could disrupt medicine supplies. They demanded withdrawal of the order.

Min instructs monitoring of IVF centres in B'luru

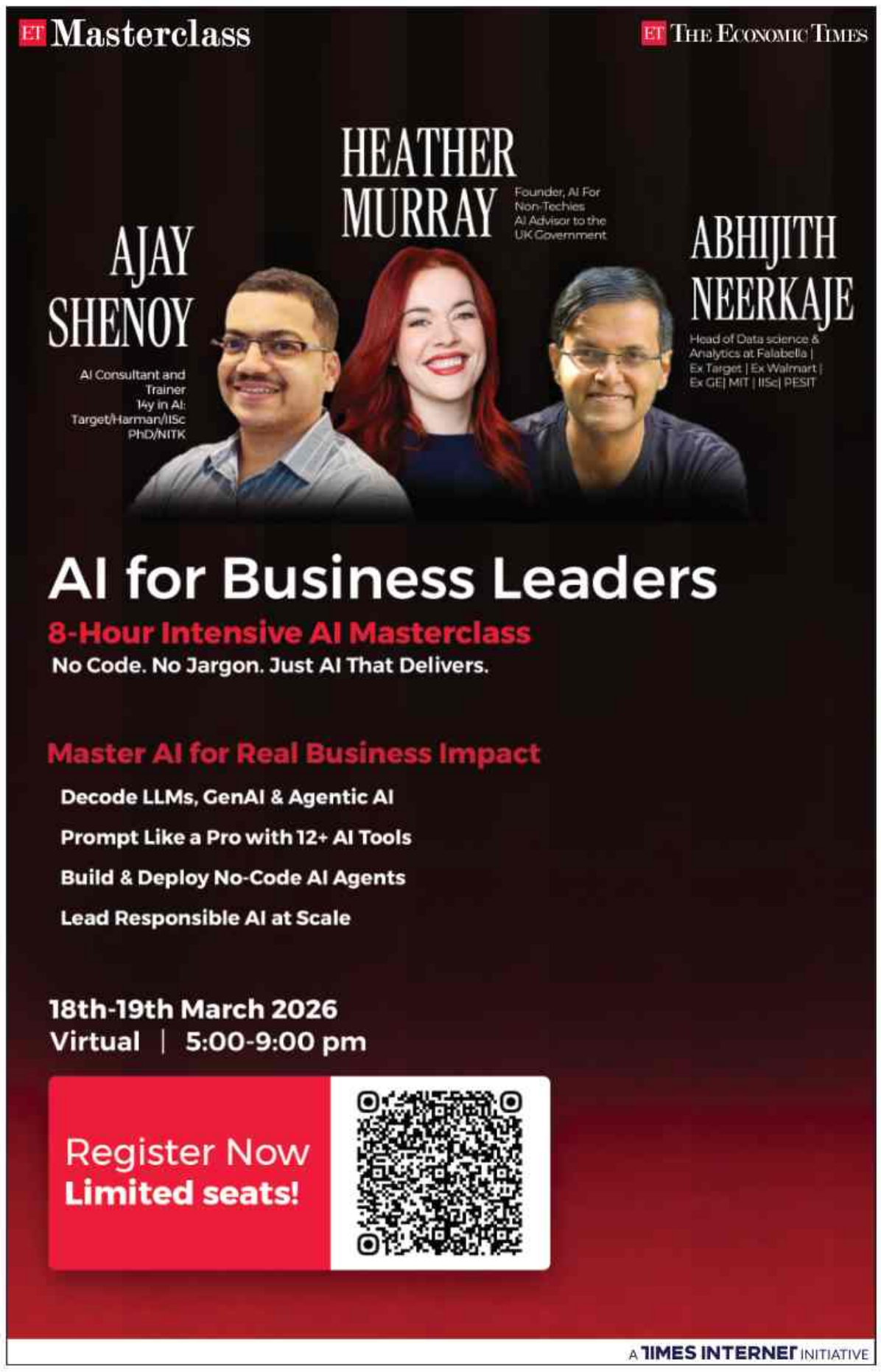
Bengaluru: Health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao directed health department officials to monitor the functioning of IVF centres in Bengaluru following the recent busting of an alleged egg trafficking racket in neighbouring Maharashtra.

MAHA RACKET

The directive came after authorities in Badlapur, Maharashtra, uncovered an illegal network involving unethical stimulation, extraction and sale of human eggs.

Three women were arrested in connection with the case, and preliminary investigation revealed at least 40 women were allegedly exploited as part of the racket.

Rao told media that during the course of investigation, possible links to Bengaluru had been mentioned. TNN



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real estate

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BALI THEME Farmland. BUY 20 cents (8720sft) on 4000' Hill Top near Hosur Amidst Forest Greenery @ 555/sft Fully developed Ct: 9176054384 & visit

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PRIME Property Near ITPL Metro Station 50,000sqft. Kumar Park 37X70 Commercial Property. Contact NCR Ranjitha:9738920699/ 9731115176

LAND for sale suitable for resort or farm house purpose Jog road Sagar Call : 9740312051

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SITE For Sale Jayanagar Housing Co-Operative Society 1614 SFT North Facing BDA katha developed area nr Vajara halli Metro Stn. call: 9845010893

SALE BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE EAST FACING 40x60 40FEET ROAD, 4TH BLOCK PRICE 3.15 CRORE CONTACT: 93850 33666

BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE 11th BLOCK, CLOSE to UTTARAHALLI MAIN ROAD, 40x60 SALE, Good Location. CALL : MANOJ - 9731410616

WANTED Anjanapura Banashankari 6th Stage JP Nagar Near Kanakapura Road Any Measurement Immediate Settlement Call: 9964627255

SALE BDA 30x40 East Facing Banashankari 6th Stage 2nd Block 1st Allottee 18.5K Per Sft Ready For Registration Contact Owner: 99803 33100

WEST FACING BDA site 9Mx12M for sale in BSK 6th Stage, 2nd Block. Excellent location. For price contact: 96636 11844

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READY TO OCCUPY
2400 sft, 4 BHK, FULLY FURNISHED LUXURY FLATS. EAST FACING, ONE UNIT PER FLOOR

OR FULL Building with 4 Units of 4BHK & 2 Shops on Ground flr.Teak, Italian Marble, Jacuzzi, Gym & Power back up. 99868 64000

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BASAVANAGUDI

SALE AV 40x60 Site 40ft Road BSK 1st Ashoknagar BSK 3rd Stge Near Kathargupe Water-tank. Call: SHIVAS REALTY 9900123798/ 9341248044

SALE - Shankarpuram.60 x 44 site with building, prime location opposite Jnanodaya school, Call 9448314766/9886419080

26X48 East facing Residential Property for sale with Rental income, near NR Colony next to SGPTA School Contact: 7795315656

BASAVESHWARA NAGAR

2 BHK Flat for Sale First Floor North Facing Super Built up Area 1085 Sqft at Shankar Mutta off Basaveshwara Nagar. Mahesh: 9611878492/ 8861406060

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PENTHOUSE ready to move 4.5BHK, 5bathroom, 3balcony +terrace, 3500 Sqft, 5.5Cr @ Benson Town, 2km Cnngham, 8088330330 www.govianu.com

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1,25,000 Sft Prime Commercial Land Suitable For Office Space, Outlet Mall & Warehouse Available For Rent in Bidadi Contact: 99721 81837

BROOKE FIELD

FOR Sale Plot Brookefield Next to Rayan school & Brigade Tech Gardens and AECS Layout, N/E Corner Facing plot 2135sft @4.25 cr. 9902925519

BTM LAYOUT

BTM Layout 30x40 Monthly Rental Income 1.80 Lakhs to 4 Lakhs and Commercial SITE 40x60 SALE. Genuine Buyers Call: 98457-55977

BTM Layout 2nd Stage Prime Properties for Sale 30x40, 30x50, 40x60, 40x70, 50x80, 60x90 Residential & Commercial Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

4BHK 3Balcony, 1unit/ floor, 3200Sft High end Flats Govianu Cunningham, 100mtr frm Cunningham Rd, Last 1unit avlb. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

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COLDWELL BANKER
ARCHSTONE VENTURES

PRIME NANDI Hills Land - 20 & 50 Gunta | Nandi View | Near ITIR | 2.03 Cr/Acre | Contact 8970049999

₹3500/-Sqft
BIAAPA SITES FOR SALE
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DEVANAHALLI Approved Sites for sale near International Airport Size 2400, 4000sqft, 9740589739/ 97313083328

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24000SFT, 12000sft & 6000 Sqft Property A'Khata 55 feet Main Road North East Corner Closeto Nandhi Upachar Hotel Devanahalli Contact-9986455505

BEAUTIFUL 2 ACRES 28 GUNTAS CONVERTED LAND SALE IN IVC (International Airport Road) ROAD. Contact RAJESH TALREJA 9845302727

DOLLARS COLONY

3BHK, 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, DOLLARS COLONY. For more details contact: 8088330330. www.govianu.com

ELECTRONIC CITY

HALF price Sale 2bhk flat ittina neela nr gold coin club huskur gate bus stop 550sq ft dedicated car parking gated colony 8431154749/9986202924

HEBBAL

Broker in Blue.

BEHIND MANYATA Tech Park 30x40 NE & E Face, 40x60 WF, 76x58 NW Corner, BDA Approved-Resi Plots Call 9100151515

SITE Sale 30x40 N/E Corner for Residential/Commercial BBMP limits, 15000/- (Nego) Kempapura, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, C: 9448255072/9663751206

HIGH End Luxury Flat For Sale 4637 Sqft 4BHK South Facing For Sale Embassy Lake Terrace Contact Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

PRESTIGE MISTY WATERS Hebbal luxurious semi furnish 2, 2.5, 3BHK Apts for sale. Rs. 1.60Cr onwards. Prime location Amenities. Citilines 97414-17120

HENNUR

SALE Row house 4 BHK fully furnished Hennur Kothanur Road. Opposite to Salarpuria Gold Summit. Site 2600 Sft Building 5600 Sft. 3 car parks. Arun 9845077299.

SALE BDA Site 30x40 East Facing near Hennur, just 3 km from Ring Road junction, price Rs-1.60 Crores. For details Call "Gaja Realtor"- 9845442054

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY Shed for Rent @ Kothnur Hennur Bande with 280HP Power 14kSqft 3L/M Contact Pneeth Jani : 98448 30500

BHAIRATHI HENNUR SITE FOR SALE 40X30, NORTH FACING DC CONVERTED, DEADEND PROPERTY 8500/- NEGO: 9972849555/ 9606178077

40X60 Site for Sale Bileshivale Hennur Off Elu's Main Rd, Near Purva Palm Beach Call: 9901115611 / 8431659271

HORAMAVU

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2BHK FOR SALE
HORAMAVU MAIN ROAD
PROPERTY WORLD
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40 ACRES
Price 2.6Cr / Acre
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HOSUR ROAD

MISTY Mountains Enclave Bettamugilalam (Mini Ooty 4000 Ft Above Sea Level) 10,000 Plus Sqft Luxury Farm Villa Plots With Fully Grown Mango Trees Available At Nearest & Good Motorable Hill Station To Bengaluru City 85 Km Enroute Electronic City Off Hosur Road, Tranquil, Beautiful And Rich In Nature. Its A Property For Health. 500/- Rs/Sft. Clear Titles Ct : 9731479545 / 8151973147

5000SQFT(50X100) Commercial Site, Behind Nandini Hotel, Singasandra, 500mtrs from Kudlugate Metro Station Call: 9845723238 / 9035329897

HSR LAYOUT

RENTAL return properties 6cr(3L) 7.5cr(4.2L) 12cr(6L) 14cr(8L) 17cr(8L) 50x80 Semi commercial site 45K call 9916033055

HSR-SALE Semi-Commercial 50×80 @ 6th Sector/ 40×60 @1st Sector & Site-30×40 4.5 CR, Houses available from 2.5CR to 10 CR. Contact : 93438 27680.

INDIRA NAGAR

BANK Tenanted Commercial Property Sale in Tippasandra Main Road Indiranagar 7.5 Lakhs Rent Price 15 CR. Cntct: Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

INDIRANAGAR HAL 2nd stage, Defence Colony, 3500sft Site, and Built Houses on 50x80 Site, 80x100 Site, 5400sft Sites For Sale Call: 98450 22510

FOR RENT, G+3 floor in 20 x30 site, near to 100ft road, suitable for Office, Guest House,PG. Rent-1.15/lakh. Cont: 9880050624. Brokers Excuse.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

BRIGADE ELDORADO
3 BHK 1068 Sft in 21st floor
@ 1.10 Cr
Bangalore North

3 BHK New Flat semi furnished for sale East face ready to move Price 1.10 cr Call 8019249967 / 9986954931

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE, in KIADB Allotted Corner Plot, 50000 sqft, Facing 150 ft Rd, 500 mts from STRR, 300mts from the Brigade WTC Devanahalli, 20 mins from Kempegowda International Airport, Call us 9677403235 or 9703919111

FOR Sale/ JD 3.5 Acre at Uthanahalli, 2 acre Bagalur both Podi need. 29,000 Sft at Rose Heritage E Khata. Sale-Rng hostel 150 students can stay margondanahalli. Casagrand Bvld Kothnur 4 B/d/ 2 car,Cnr duplex M:70197-59654/ 81232-03836/ 98451-61052

PREMIUM Residential Plot for sale in Adarsh Savana, North Bangalore. Call 9886388587.

JAKKUR

FOR-SALE: Arkavathy BDA Layout 7th Block, 9x6 Mtrs, Site No.2420, East Facing, Excellent Location, 89 Lakhs, Call Direct Owner: 98801 41140.

JUDICIAL Layout Site For Sale 7850sft East Facing Residential Plan Sanctioned on 14th Main 22k per sft Ct: 9845922769

JALAHALLI

30×52 PLOT at D Block, Malla sandra Village, Bagalkunte, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, B.lore. just 2 km from Jalahalli Metro Station. Contact - 95603 15388.

JAYANAGAR

RESIDENTIAL Plot For Sale North Facing 4th T Block Jayanagar 28th Main 35th Cross 2700 Sqft Contact: Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

JAYANAGAR 9th block New 3 BHK Luxurious Flat with all amenities higher flrs walkable jayanagar Metro Station / Complex Jagadish: 9845010893

LUXURY 2100 Sqft EF 3BHK Flat Sale with All Amenities In Jayanagar 4th Block With OC, Close to Jain Temple Contact Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

PRIME Property for Sale 40x60 Corner @Jayanagar 2nd Blk 50ft Road Ideal for Independent House/Apartment Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

4BHK Independent House on 40x55 N/F Site for Sale @ Jayanagar Excellent Location 40 Feet Road Genuine Buyers Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

PRIME Properties for Sale @ Jayanagar 30x40, 30x50, 40x60, 45x90, 70x120, 80x120, 100x150 Residential & Commercial Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

LUXURY Newly Built 3BHK Apartment for Sale in Jayanagar near South End Circle, 2200 to 2500 Sqft Each Flat. Ct: 9945265049/ 9738302049.

JIGANI-ANEKAL

LAND FOR SALE ON STRR (Upcoming)

3 ACRES, Clear Titles, Agricultural Land Between Anekal to Thally Road, Rs. 3 Cr. per Acre. Contact: 9844400002

SALE: MNC Tenanted INDUSTRIAL/ WAREHOUSE Plot- ANEKAL Industrial Park 7.20 Acres. Developer share of 5 Acres being Sold. Monthly Rental income 35 Lacs, 4 Crores Deposit on long lease with 5% increase in Annual Rent. Call: BV Ananth Kumar: 9845005855

JP NAGAR

STARTS RS.1.19CR at Doddakalsandra Near Narayana Nagar, Forum Mall. Ct: 7204020888/ 7204030888 / 9845518375

FOR SALE : NEW HOUSE in JP Nagar 8th phase, EF- 4 floors with 3600sft built-up, BBMP 'A' khatha, GF-1BHK, FF-2BHK & SF-3BHK Luxury duplex house with lift.Rs.2.75 Cr nego. Mob : 81057 66359.

JIGANI Nisarga Nandana Vana Layout 40x60 Sites J.P.Nagar, Nagarbhavi, Anjanapura BDA 40x60 60feet Road E/F Sites call: 96112 16356

International School Requires Land 2-3 Acres for Long Lease/ BTS around South Bangalore. Contact: "IRSHADS PROPERTY MATTERS"- 99456-31500.

JUDICIAL LAYOUT

4BHK, 4000 Sqft Luxury high end flats, Judicial layout gkvk, ONE Floor ONE Unit 100% floor FLAT Sale: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

KALYAN NAGAR

Wanted-For Rent
4 or 5 BHK
Independent Bungalow For an INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PLAY SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE Occupancy @ Indiranagar Kalyan Nagar/Hennur Rd Yelahanka. Brokers Excu Contact : 91135 68306.

KANAKAPURA ROAD

30X50 CORNER Brand New 3 BHK Duplex Villa Gated Community @ Nanda Prakruthi E katha Off Kanakapura Road Near Nice Road Rs.1.89cr Negotiable Call: 9901011122, 9845064043

LAND FOR SALE
41,000 Sqft
Near Thathaguni
BMICAPA Approved, A Khata
LAYOUT PLAN SANCTIONED
Ideal For Schools /Colleges.

JUST 2KM From Silk Institute Metro Station & Kanakapura Main Road. Contact: 9845537803/ 9886481301

30X40 & 54x40 Sites for sale at Art of Living near Kaggilipura and Kanakapura Main Road. Call: 9845624531

KENGERI

60X40 B Khata SITE FOR SALE near RR MEDICAL COLLEGE, KENGERI, MYSORE ROAD, For more details Contact: 95912 99944.

KORAMANGALA

KORAMANGALA NEAR JNC
PLUG & PLAY OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
Available: 10,000 Sft.
Independent Commercial Building with 180+ Seating Capacity.

FULLY Furnished with: workstations & cabins,A/c Lift, Carparking, Power Backup,Cafeteria,Basement Parking.Call: 9845057375

KORMANGALA 3 BHK Flat For Sale In Prestige Acropolis Adjacent To Forum Mall 2292 Sqft South Facing. Contact: Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

KORMANGLA Reqd 40&60 Site/Old House Imm. Settlment & Sarjapura Rd 5-10 Acres Land Mullure Rd, Carmelaram Road Owners only Call: 9916763727

SALE 4BHK Duplex House 4060 Sqft (Corner Site) Builtup Area 5740 Sqft Near Raheja Residency, 1st Block Koramangala 9886779434/ 9663700713

GRADE-A OFFICE TO LET
BRIGADE SOFTWARE PARK
18,125 Sft, Fully Furnished Plug-&-Play office with 264 workstations on 3rd Floor.
Meeting Rooms:
4-Pax (4), 8-Pax (5), 12-Pax (1), 2-Pax (2). Includes Cafeteria & Recreational Room.
CONTACT
98450 41824, 98453 56622

FOR sale 12,800 sft corner plot in Koramangala 3RD block at 60,000 per sft. Nice location. Serious buyers may call Rajender Agrawal 9886111960

KORAMANGALA 100 feet Road Near BDA COMPLEX 80x120 COMMERCIAL SITE Available FOR SALE. Brokers Excuse. Call- 97413 79993.

KUMARA PARK

1800SQFT 3 BHK North Facing Semi Furnished Flat For Sale Kumara Park Close To Jain Temple Contact Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

MAGADI ROAD

ANDHRAHALLI main road Newly built house - 4bhk duplex+1bhk rent. Price-1.90cr North facing, park view, BDA khata(loan title). Kaveri+borewell facility contact-9845039092, 9986401098

3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MALLESHWARAM

17TH Crs Nr Cloud 9 Hospital Flat for sale 2BHK (1100sft) West facing.1st flr, Car Park. Rs. 1.30Cr. Call Genuine buyers only: 7013351639 / 9945617455

SEMI Commercial North West Corner Plot with Old House Sale in Gayatridevi Park Extn. Vyalikaval. Plot Area 3100Sft. AURAM ESTATES: 99802 89720

MATHIKERE

1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.goviami.com

MG ROAD & AROUND

OFFICE/ RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT @ M.G ROAD Bangalore

FOR RENT: 1st & 2nd floor, Office/ Retail space, Measuring 1000 sq ft @ M.G Road, For more details contact: 9844000156.

SADHWANIS 2BHK Apartment with car park for Sale at Lavelle Road, Excellent Location Location Location, Ready to Move, Rs.3Cr. Ct: 9845070013

8,200 sft plot @55,000 per sft. Nice plot in FAIRFIELD LAYOUT at reasonable rate. Please reach Rajender Agrawal 9886111960

NANDIDURGA ROAD

COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT
3600 sft, 2000 sft & 1600 sft, fully furnished with Backup Facility availiabe on NANDIDURGA ROAD.
CONTACT OWNER. 98441 68567 99000 92042

NELMANGALA

SALE, 10 Acres Industrial Converted Land. Company Property Near Dabaspet Opposite to KIADB. Contact Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

PEENYA

INDUSTRIAL SHED for Sale 21500sft Peenya 3rd Stage with RCC building 6000sft. fabricated shed 16000sft With 70HP Power Rs 14500 Per Sft Call: 98459 22769

RAJAJI NAGAR

PURVA BLUBELLE Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro station RAJAJINAGAR 3 BHK & Exclusive 5 BHK Flats + Servant Room with all luxurious Amenities, Only few units left for Sale Call Owner : 9844027560.

3BHK, 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, Rajajinagar main road near Navrang theatre, Phone 8088330330. www.govianu.com

RICHMOND TOWN

COMMERCIAL Plot For Sale East Facing 4000 Sqft K H Road Double Road Close To Richmond Circle. Contact Rajesh Talreja 9845302727

LAVELLE road, 3 BHK, Ground floor, 2300 sqft, 1 Carpark, East facing, Rs 25,000/- psqft. Genuine Buyers only. Contact. 9845004307.

RT NAGAR

SALE
RT Nagar 2nd Block
North East Corner
61 x 44 Site

EXCELLENT 2 Storeyed Villa Park Facing. Close to BDA Complex. Prime Area. Genuine Parties Call Owner - 8088213049

SAHAKARA NAGAR

FOR RENT 5 BHK VILLA Gated Community East Facing with 4 Car Park Private Garden, 1 LAC /Month + Maintenance PH: 9880696967

SAHAKARANAGAR 32X40 North & South Facing Semi Commercial Site For Sale Good location rs.28000/ sft Buyers plz Ct: 9449987986 Brokers Excuse

SANJAY NAGAR

SALE: 3 BEDROOM Apartment on Kalpana Chawla Road. Price Rs.1.80cr. Buyers Please Kindly Contact: SUNDAR 8618785404 9632224461

SARJAPUR ROAD

FOR SALE
Prime Residentially Converted Land for Sale on SARJAPUR ROAD Banaglore.
21000 SqFt.
Close to Wipro Sez 120 Ft. From Main Road. Suitable for High End Villa or Apartment.
+91 97433 35678

SESHADRIPURAM

3&4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, Contact 8088330330, www.govianu.com

NE-CORNER Comml. Plot Sale on Seshadripuram Main Rd, Plot Area 1180Sft Ground Flr-Shop,1st Flr- Duplex House 5Cr. Auram Estates: 99802 89720

SHANTI NAGAR

FOR SALE LUXURIOUS

3 BHK FLATS
SHANTHI NAGAR.
READY TO MOVE
@ Rs.9800/-Per Sqft
AMENITIES
Swimming Pool, Health Club, Parking, Community Hall, Jain Temple.
Bank Loan Available.
Promoters quota.
Few Flat available.
Call-9845000439

UTTARAHALLI

OC /CC Project, E-Katha Ready to move, close to metro, as per vastu, basic price Rs.8500/-per sft. 9886191552/ 7975626130

VICTORIA LAYOUT

SALE 4 BHK, Modern appt. Fully Furnished, 3000 sft 2 Living Halls, 2 modular Kitchens, 2 Balconies + Elevator & covered car park. @ Campbell Road, Xavier Layout, B.lore.

SALE: 3 BHK, Modern New GF Appt. 1560 sq ft Living, Dining, Modular Kitchen @ Viveknagar, B.lore. Owner: 98803 47774

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

HOUSE & SITES SALE
Vishveshwaraiah Lyt
5th Block- 30x40 BDA House sale GF- Car Park, 1st flr 1BHK 2 Units 2nd Flr- 2BHK, 3rd Flr- 2BHK, Top Flr- 1 Room With All facilities **1st Block-** 40x60 North, South facing Site & **8th Block-** 50x80 NF Residential Site & 50x80 Commercial BDA Sites on 100 feet Road Prime locations

30X40 BDA EF Railway 1st Stage Nr Vidyaniketana School, 30x50 WF Resi KHB Hampapura Immediate Sale.owner.9845143579

VISVESWARAIAH Layout Wanted BDA Sites 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. 20x30, Any Measurement in all Blocks Buying/Selling/ Owners Contact- 9686750396

WHITEFIELD

Luxury 4bhk duplex flat 2790sft in an elite Gated Community. Prime location near IT park. Rs.5.5cr Cont: 9845208012

WILSON GARDEN

WILSON_GARDEN, 4 BHK (2400 sft site) 2700 sft built-up independent house for SALE. Excellent Location, Ready for Registration contact:9448064359

YELAHANKA

YELAHANKA - Semi commercial Wast facing 60*101 Site, Kogilu To Kattigenahalli Main Road, Near Casagrand, BBMP Limit, E khatha, Rs 15000/- Sq ft, 9900789192

YELAHANKA - South Wast Corner site 40*40, BBMP Limit E khatha, Behind Euro School, Kogilu Main Road, Rs 6250/- per Sq ft, Mobile - 9900789192

14200SF, Prestige NW County, Premium Corner Plot N-Facing, 2-Side Open, E-Khata Ideal for Signature Luxury Villa. Price Rs.9.6 Cr. Call: +91 82961 22185

SALE 3BHK Flat 1.75 Crores All Inclusive Except Registration One Flat Per Floor Yelahanka New Town A Sector Ready For Fit Out. 9886415554

RAMANASHREE California Gardens 5 BHK Villa Gated Community with all amenities, Swimming Pool, For Sale Rs. 7.20 Cr. Contact: +916364925488

SALE: 50X80 Site in KHB Layout, Yelahanka. South facing, excellent location. Genuine buyers only. Call: 9886419080/9448314766

YESHWANTHPUR

3BHK, 1500sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, OC received, in YESHWANTPUR, For more details please contact: 8088330330 www.govianu.com

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

3 BHK New Premium Apt, Bhoopsandra. East Entrance. Quiet Neighbourhood. 2.3Cr. Ph: 9986355796

FOR Sale fully furnished 5 BHK Premium 3003sft apart 300mt from Trinity Circle,MG road, opp FAP school,Ulsoor with 2 parking.cont 8217483566.

SOUTH facing Propriety plot sale in Begur, 40'×52', car shed with electrical power, and bore well water with compond. A Katha and E katha. Please call 9686016555

SALE 2776 sft East facing E-khata site at Horamavu Agara in gated community. Rs 7500/sft. Call 9945694511

FOR Sale 45x80, BDA North East Facing Site in Anjanapura 3rd A Block, with Fencing on 60' Road, Clear Title, Single Owner call Rajesh 98451 67755

6825 sqft residential plots for sale beutiful gated community with coconut fruits trees Lush greenery at chikkajala just 20 mins BLR airport.9448717222

PRIME -COMMERCIAL-LAND- 56,000 sq.ft. on Tumkur Road, Yeshwantpur, Near Sparsh Hospital. Ph: 9845202433

60×40 site South facing, 2nd block Vishweshwaraiya layout, on 60feet road, Suitable for commercial building, please contact 9113013428

SALE 2BHK (G+1) East Facing House on 40*60 South facing site Shriram Hamsadhwani ANEKAL Gated community Price 1.4 Cr (Nego) Contact 6362813070

FOR SALE - PLOT IN BIDADI

East-facing corner plot, 1500 sq.ft, gated layout. BMRDA A-Khata. Near Toyota & Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. Call: 9886118912

MYSORE

International School Requires for Outright Purchase 3-7 Acres around West of Mysore. Contact: "IRSHADS PROPERTY MATTERS" 99456-31500.

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

CHIKMAGALUR

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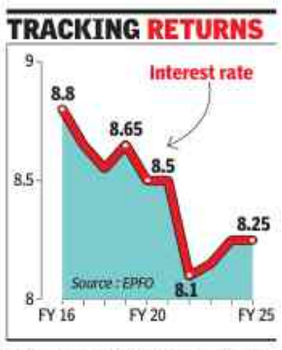
EPFO may retain interest rate at 8.25% for FY 2026

Shiva Rajora

New Delhi: The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is likely to recommend 8.2-8.25% interest rate for its 31 crore members this year, in the wake of the ebbing stock markets and bond yields, combined with higher settlements of claims.

The retirement savings body paid 8.25% last year. In FY24, it had raised the interest rate to 8.25% from 8.15% in FY23. In FY22, the interest rate had plunged to a four-decade low of 8.1%.

"Stock markets and equities have not performed up to the mark this year due to global volatility. Govt bond yields too have been tepid this year, where most of the EPFO's corpus is invested. Hence, income generated is expected to be lower," said a CBT member ahead of the crucial meeting on Monday.



The investment committee of the board, which will discuss the retirement fund body's income and expenditure profile and take a view on the interest rate, will also meet on Monday before the CBT chaired by labour minister Mansukh Mandaviya convenes later in the day. Once approved by the CBT, the interest rate will have to be ratified by the finance ministry, after which it will be credited to the subscriber's accounts by the middle of the next financial year.

RBI has cut interest rates in recent months, even as govt has left small savings rates unchanged.

"Lakhs of new workers joined last year because of Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana leading to a boost in the investible corpus," said the National Front of Indian Trade Unions national president Deepak Jaiswal.

GST overreach? FM to look into Fino Payments Bank chief arrest

Times News Network

Mumbai: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said she would look into allegations of overreach by GST authorities after businessman TV Mohandas Pai raised concerns over the arrest of Fino Payments Bank MD & CEO Rishi Gupta in a Rs 3,000 crore GST evasion case.

In a post on X, Pai questioned the action against the chief executive of a regulated bank over alleged irregularities linked to a business partner. "How can a CEO of a regulated bank be arrested for an issue with a business partner? Is this not overreach? @FinMinIndia has given vast powers for GST. What is the safeguard for citizens against misuse? Please intervene," he said.

Responding to the post, Sitharaman said, "Thanks for sharing this. Will check".

Gupta was arrested on Friday by Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Hyderabad unit, in connection with an alleged Rs 3,000 crore GST evasion case involving online betting apps. The probe alleges betting-generated funds were routed through banking channels via a network of entities, including Wegofin Digital Solutions and PSRao Digital Solutions.

Persons aware of the probe said the initial probe indicates GST evasion of several crores involving many shell and non-existent entities and payment aggregators, which were allegedly used to funnel the illicit funds being generated by online money gaming. "Investigation conducted so far has brought out the involvement of a senior bank functionary in the fraud, who has been placed under arrest," said a person who did not want to be identified.

Cong wants 41, DMK sticks to 25 seats plus 1 RS

Julie Mariappan & M Yazhiniyan | TNN

Chennai: Congress and DMK began their seat-sharing talks for Tamil Nadu assembly polls in Chennai on Saturday, with Congress demanding 41 seats and two Rajya Sabha berths, and DMK sticking to 25 seats, the same number it offered in 2021, and one Rajya Sabha seat.

The Dravidian party also told the Congress delegation that power-sharing was off the table. DMK had initially considered offering two additional assembly seats, but the party panel led by TR Baalu held firm at 25 during the one-hour negotiation with the Congress team led by AICC member Girish Chodankar.

The Congress delegation said it would revert after consulting Rahul Gandhi.

"The meeting was very friendly. We expressed our concerns and they expressed theirs. Many issues were discussed threadbare. Everything will be finalised in the next two or three days," Chodankar told reporters.

The Congress camp said it demanded 25% of the seats and posts in the local body elections during Saturday's discussion; however, a DMK functionary said the issue was not discussed.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our clients **Mr.V.J.K. Bakthavakchalam the President and Mr.Manjunath,** the **C.E.O** of **Karnataka Telecom Department Employees Co-operative Society Ltd.,** having registered office at **NO 106, 2nd Block, P&T Colony, R T Nagar, BENGALURU-560032, do hereby caution the General Public, Registered Regular/ Associate members of my Clients society, that the Society does not have any agents, authorized persons, brokers,** middlemen, representative, attorney, proxies, manager, distributor, intermediary or liaison agent,to deal on their behalf, in respect of any of its projects or residential sites therein, being undertaken exclusively for the benefit of its registered members only as per the bye laws of the Society, as follows:

Sl.No	Name of the Project	Village Name / Place
1	AKSHYABRINDHAVAN LAYOUT	BENGALURU
2	RATNA SWAROOPA LAYOUT	BENGALURU
3	AYUSHMANBHAVA LAYOUT	BENGALURU
4	ANANDHASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
5	NITHYANANDHASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
6	ATHMANANDHASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
7	PARAMANANDHASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
8	SUKHANANDHASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
9	KUBERANANDHASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
10	KUVEMPUSAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
11	BRAMMANANDASAGARA LAYOUT	MYSORE
12	BRAMMANANDASAGARA STAGE-2 LAYOUT	MYSORE
13	ARAVIND BHAVA LAYOUT	BENGALURU
14	KALPAVIRUKSHA LAYOUT	BENGALURU

It has come to my clients notice some unscrupulous, mischievous persons, are wilfully and wrongly misrepresenting themselves to be the agents of, appointed by or having connection with the Directors/Board Members, and making claims, including promise to obtain residential sites in the above projects undertaken by the society, to liaise and obtain sites, obtain Khata, get preference/priority in allotment, receiving cash consideration over and above the price at which the society has fixed and duly notified in the notice board, as price of sites to its members, other similar acts, etc., which are not made/received/approved/endorsed by the society.
Hence the General Public Members are hereby cautioned not to deal with any such unauthorised person(s), not fall prey for any such lure, including misusing the name(s) of any Director or Board Member, who in their individual capacity are not entitled or authorised to make any such decision, promise commitment on behalf of the society, and not to entertain, deal or agree to any transactions dealing entered into with them, which is illegal, without authority, void ab initio and will not attach the Society. as it has nothing to do with such persons/dealings.
My client Society does not collect any amount in cash, from or through any person, unless paid directly by a member at the Registered Office, at its Cash Counter for which due receipts will be issued by the Society The General Public, Regular and Associates members are hereby cautioned not to deal with anyone in respect of application for sites, payment of any amount either as advance/installment in cash.
Any person using the name of any agent, Directors or Board Members are hereby warned that they will be doing so at their own risk as the same are not legal and not approved by the society for any such dealing, hence the society will not be liable for any such wrongful dealings by the General Public /Regular or Associates Members of the Society.
For any transaction with the society, whether it is for any services including but not limited to, Application form for Residential Site, communications relating to the sites, Provisional / Final Allotment letters of site. Registration and Khatha, payments to the society, can only be the done at the Registered Office and by the competent persons, namely the CEO Mr. Manjunath or the President Mr. V.J.K. Bakthavakchalam. TAKE NOTE any dealings directly with any other person/persons is not valid and will not bind the society.
The General public or members are hereby requested that if they come across any acts, or instances of such misuse, by any person either by themselves or in the name of, or by any director directly or indirectly shall be brought to the notice of the CEO/President to take stern action.

Place: BENGALURU
Dated: 28.02.2026

Sd/- D.S. LOKESH, Advocate
No.320, Ground Floor, Opp Govt College, Extn. K.R.Puram Bengaluru-560036.
Mob:No.9880321614, 9986830555

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GET NOTICED

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

How fast are American firms embracing AI?

Use of AI by US firms jumped from 55% in 2023 to 78% in 2024. Among goods and services firms, it went from less than 4% to about 10% in two years

Share of US firms using AI in production of goods & services (%)

Human brain can grow new cells, remain sharp even in 80s: Study

But Alzheimer's Disease Disrupts Renewal Process

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: For many people, ageing brings small lapses in memory. A forgotten name, a misplaced key. For others, memory loss becomes something more serious. Yet, some in their 80s remain as sharp as they were decades earlier.

A paper published in the journal, 'Nature', suggests one reason for this may lie deep inside the brain's memory centre — in its ability to continue producing new cells even late in life. The study provides strong evidence that the adult human brain continues to generate new neurons in the hippocampus, the region crucial for learning and memory, though this process is disrupted by Alzheimer's disease.

Using advanced single-cell genetic techniques, researchers analysed nearly 3,56,000 cells from postmortem hippocampus samples across age groups — from young adults to healthy elderly individuals, early Alzheimer's cases, diagnosed patients and 'SuperAgers' — identifying neural stem cells and immature neurons and tracing a clear pathway from stem cell to mature neuron.

Age alone did not shut down this process. Healthy older adults still showed neuron formation. But in Alzheimer's, immature neurons were significantly fewer. Stem cells remained, yet their development into functioning neurons appeared impaired.

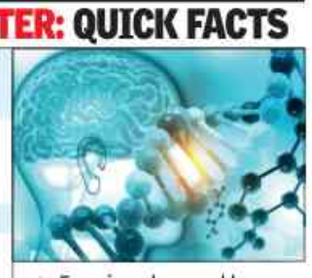
Dr Manjari Tripathi, head of neurology at AIIMS, said this reflected neuronal plasticity — the brain's ability to adapt and renew itself even in adulthood. According to her, this can be strengthened through exercise, balanced diet, adequate sleep, reduced stress, strong social networks and control of cardiovascular risks. Sleep, in particular, is crucial for memory consolidation and neuronal sprouting. She noted that many 'SuperAgers' stayed mentally active and socially engaged.

Researchers detected early molecular changes in individuals with Alzheimer's-related pathology but no symptoms, suggesting the disruption in renewal may begin years before memory decline appears.

Dr Sudhir Kumar, neurologist at Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad, said adult neurogenesis occurred at a slower pace than in childhood but remain-ed functionally vital. New neurons are adaptable and help distinguish similar memories. He added if this regenerative capacity declined early in Alzheimer's, future diagnostics may detect it before symptoms appeared. He said treatment should target toxic proteins like amyloid while also boosting the brain's repair through therapies and lifestyle change.

MIND OVER MATTER: QUICK FACTS

- The adult brain can grow new cells
- This happens in the memory centre (hippocampus)
- Age alone does not stop it
- Alzheimer's reduces new neuron formation
- The slowdown may begin before symptoms appear
- 'SuperAgers' have more young neurons and stronger brain connections



- Exercise, sleep and low stress may support brain health
- Future treatments may aim to protect and strengthen the brain's natural repair system

Days after thrashing toll staffer, UP MLA son named in FIR

Sudeep.Lavania
@timesofindia.com

Agra: Days after a toll employee was allegedly thrashed by the son of Fatehpur Sikri BJP MLA Chaudhary Babulal and threatened that he wouldn't "get home alive", police in Agra registered an FIR against Suresh Chaudhary under BNS sections for criminal intimidation and voluntarily causing hurt.

In his complaint, toll employee Sanjay Singh (24), who had been working at the Raibha plaza for about two years, stated: "On Feb 24, at 11.02am, a vehicle with an 'MLA' sticker arrived at the place and its driver asked us to remove the barrier. When I asked, 'Are you an MLA? Please show your ID', the man sitting inside stepped out and started beating me. He then said, 'I'm Suresh Chaudhary, son of the local MLA. If you stop this car again, I will shoot you'."

Singh further claimed when he left for home in the evening, four persons on two bikes started following him and threatened him with "dire consequences". According to his brother, Veeru Singh, they had to move to their relatives' house in another state due to fear. "An 'agreement' letter was also given by us to cops under pressure from the other side," he told **TOI** on Saturday.

ACP (Achhnera) Shailendra Singh said, "An FIR has been registered and a probe has been initiated. Further action will be taken in accordance with the law."

THREAT CLAIM

MLA Babulal Chaudhary accused the toll staff of "misconduct". He added that even after the vehicle was identified as the MLA's, they misbehaved with his son, triggering the altercation. Following the staff's complaint, a case was registered under BNS sections 115, 351 along with 352 (intentional insults).

Woman gives birth after sterilisation, seeks govt support

Faiz.Siddiqui
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Kanpur: A woman in UP's Jalaun district, who underwent sterilisation at a govt hospital in 2023 but later gave birth to a child, has now sought govt assistance to raise him. On Friday, the 27-year-old woman submitted a demand letter to the district magistrate, who asked the chief medical officer (CMO) to investigate the issue.

The applicant, who already had two children when she had a tubectomy, gave birth to a boy 18 months after the procedure. In her letter, she argued that the birth occurred due to the health department's negligence and that govt must take responsibility for raising the boy, who was now one-and-a-half years old.

Her husband (35), who works as a mason, said the health department had told them the tubectomy was completely successful. He said the state of their finances was far from sound, and there was no way they could afford to bring up a third child. He added that he had complained to the health authorities multiple times since April 2024, but "no one even bothered to listen to us".

The woman's husband, who works as a mason, said they could not afford to raise a third child

Jalaun CMO Dr Virendra Singh said a complaint had been received and an investigation was being conducted. "Only after the report comes will it be possible to clearly say if there was any negligence, and at what level," he said, adding that a decision on compensation would be taken on the basis of the investigation report, according to govt rules.

9 Botswana cheetahs released at Kuno, India's count rises to 48

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: Nine cheetahs brought from Botswana in Africa were on Saturday released into quarantine enclosures at Kuno National Park in MP by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadavmarking a fresh phase of inductions under Project Cheetah.

The Botswana-origin cheetahs (six females and three males) arrived earlier in the day at Maharajpur Air Force Station in Gwalior aboard an Indian Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster III in a climate-controlled flight. Following veterinary checks at the airbase, the animals were airlifted to Kuno in three Mil Mi-17 helicopters to minimise road transit and stress.

At Kuno, cheetahs were moved to special enclosures, where forest and veterinary teams will monitor them round the clock during quarantine

At Kuno, the cheetahs were shifted into specially prepared enclosures where forest and veterinary teams will monitor the maround the clock during the mandatory quarantine period. Officials said the animals will undergo health screening, acclimatisation and behavioural assessment before any phased release into the wild is considered. With the additions of the new batch, India's total cheetah population has climbed to 48. The figure rose from 39 to 40 after the birth of a cub to South African female Gamini, taking the count of surviving India-born cubs to 28.

Varsity seeks to drop 'Rajiv Gandhi' from its name

Patiala: Academic council of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law has passed a resolution recommending the former PM's name be removed from the university's title and that the institution be renamed "National Law University".

In Nov, the student union demanded the removal of Rajiv Gandhi's name, even receiving backing from the Akal Takht jathedar. It was placed before the academic council and has now been forwarded to executive council and Punjab govt for approval. The demand stems from Sikh grievances over the anti-Sikh violence, when Rajiv faced criticism. TNN

Aircraft struck trees before crashing onto lower terrain: Report

▶ Continued from page 1

All five persons on board were killed in the accident, including Pawar.

The preliminary report, which carries the timeline of the occurrence, shows the last proper communication between the pilot and the Baramati air traffic controller was at 08:43:55 seconds when the co-pilot radioed, "Field in sight". At 08:44:13 the pilot can be heard saying "Oh s**t, oh s**t" before the aircraft crashed on the left side of the runway.

The report does not give details of what transpired in the final 18 seconds before the impact. CCTV footage from a local gram panchayat office showed the aircraft banking sharply just before the crash. The preliminary report instead has a satellite image tracing the probable flight path of the aircraft after the go-around. A green-marked flight track shows the aircraft approaching from the right of the runway centreline, never properly aligned with the strip visible at the end of the path. Based on the depicted track, the aircraft appears to have remained offset to the right of runway 11 before making a pronounced left turn in the final moments.

The report states: "As per the CCTV footage installed in a nearby village, the aircraft was observed to have banked towards right before impacting the terrain. The aircraft first impacted the trees before hitting the ground which is at a lower elevation than the runway surface. The ground impact of the aircraft was at a lateral distance of about 50 metres on the left edge of runway 11," the report said.

Safety experts pointed out the confusion over whether the aircraft sharply banked right or left. Capt Amit Singh of Safety Matters Foundation said: "The plotted track shows the aircraft to the right of the runway whereas the report's own narrative indicates the aircraft impacted terrain left of the runway and that the aircraft was in a right bank at impact." He added that the report "remains data-light against reasonable public expectations for evidence-backed transparency, especially given that it confirms that flight data recorder data was successfully downloaded".

Naresh acted as key middleman: ACB

▶ Continued from page 1

Naresh not only allegedly received funds directly from Swastik Desh Project but also played a crucial role as a middleman between the co-accused and some public servants, said vigilance and anti-corruption bureau officers.

He is accused of transferring Rs 1 crore govt funds through a private agency to his bank account, Rs 10 lakh to his daughter's account, and Rs 25 lakh to buy a Toyota Fortuner. The agency arrested Naresh on the basis of the firm's bank details. It said he illegally transferred Rs 40 lakh from the firm's account to his personal account on Nov 13, Rs 10 lakh on Nov 27, Rs 40 lakh on Nov 15 and another Rs 10 lakh on Nov 27. The others already arrested in the case are Ribhav Rishi, a former branch head, and Abhay Kumar, former relationship manager, at Panchkula's Sector 32 IDFC First Bank, Abhay's wife, Swati Singla, and her brother Abhishek. Swati and Abhishek were shareholders of Swastik Desh Project, said officers. They are in seven days' remand.

Naresh was presented before Panchkula court, which remanded him in anti-corruption bu reau custody for six days. "There is a high possibility of tampering with evidence. Since this scam involves transactions worth crores of rupees and numerous digital and documentary evidence, his custody is necessary to ensure that he does not tamper with important bank records, digital evidence, or govt documents," said the anti-corruption bureau.

Andhra cracker unit stockpiled chemicals beyond the permissible limit of 15 kg

▶ Continued from page 1

The unit reportedly obtained permission to manufacture small crackers, but was manufacturing large ones as well and may have stockpiled chemicals beyond the permissible limit of 15 kg. District fire officer Saikrishna Rajesh said an explosion of this magnitude was not possible with just 15 kg of chemicals. "The unit had, however, complied with other regulations like keeping a safe distance from residential areas and storing water for emergencies," Rajesh added. The govt ordered an inquiry into the cause of the explosion. Officials said in the absence of the owner, they were unable to tell the exact number of workers in the unit at the time.

PM Narendra Modi and chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu condoled the deaths. Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured. Naidu cut short an official visit to north AP and camped in Kakinada to monitor rescue. Later, he announced Rs 20 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and said four officers had been suspended.

Police officers said the explosion was so intense that body parts of the victims were recovered far from the unit.

Vetlapalem villagers recalled hearing a deafening explosion around 2.10pm, followed by thick smoke and a massive fire. Many villagers working in nearby fields said they could not reach the accident spot in time due to the intense heat all around.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
LOCAL HEAD OFFICE- KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)
State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Premises Department, Hyderabad invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of project management consultant for Construction of high rise towers for residential and office purpose in Phase-I At SBI Enclave, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Approximate Cost of the Project: Rs.2,000 Crores. The interested parties can download application from the Bank's website https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news .
The completed application to be submitted through e-tender portal on or before 30-03-2026 at 03:00 PM. Corrigendum/addendum, if any in the matter will be published only on Bank's above website.
Place: Hyderabad, Date: 01-03-2026 Sd/- Asst. General Manager (P&E)

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क्रमांक 3625 दिनांक 21.02.2026
Short Term NIT No 24/2025-26
Bids for Permanent Restoration Work Pratapbandh to karni-mata temple Road Alwar are invited from interested bidder up to 05-03-2026 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (Http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurements is 495.57/- Laces.
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Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Alwar
DIPR/C/4205/2026

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For more details, visit www.svpistm.ac.in
Director

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD CIRLCE KOTA
No. Short Term Notice Invitinu Bid (NIT No. 18/2025-26) Date:-
Bid for Construction of Various Road work in Distt. Kota (21 Works) is Invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM of 10.03.2026 (Tuesday). Other Particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.aov.in, http://sppp.rj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan State. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2416.37 Lacs.
UBN NO. (PWD2526WSOB24206), (PWD2526WSOB24207), (PWD2526WSOB24208), (PWD2526WSOB24209), (PWD2526WSOB24210), (PWD2526WSOB24211), (PWD2526WSOB24212), (PWD2526WSOB24214), (PWD2526WSOB24215), (PWD2526WSOB24216), (PWD2526WSOB24217) (PWD2526WSOB24218), (PWD2526WSOB24219), (PWD2526WSOB24220), (PWD2526WSOB24221) (PWD2526WSOB24224), (PWD2526WSOB24225), (PWD2526WSOB24226), (PWD2526WSOB24227) (PWD2526W SOB24228), (PWD2526WSOB24229)
Sd/- (J.P.Gupta) Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Circle Kota
DIPR/C/4299/2026

UTTAR PRADESH NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (UPNEDA)
(Dept. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010,
Tel.No. 0522-2720852, 2720779, 2720829
Website: www.upneda.org.in, Email: compneda@rediffmail.com
UPNEDA

Opportunity for Investors & Project Developers for setting up Floating Solar Projects
Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) invites Online Applications from Investors/Project Developers for allotment of identified Dams/Reservoirs for setting up Floating Solar Projects.

Key Information for the Application is as follows:		
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B.	Dam/Reservoir lease charges for private sector and JVs	Rs. 15000/Acre/year
C.	Link for Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P) and Govt. order No. 372/87 dated 14.03.2024	https://solar.upneda.in, https://www.upneda.org.in/
D.	Application invited on Portal	https://solar.upneda.in, https://www.upneda.org.in/ Portal is Live for online application
E.	Online Registration Fee	Rs. 23600.00 (Including Taxes)

Detailed application & proposals will be evaluated on 'First Come First Serve' basis according to the standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P) dated 28.03.2025 and Govt. order No.372/87 dated 14.03.2024
Note: All applications submitted till the last day of each month will be considered as one group. Evaluation will be done on a monthly basis.
Nodal officer Details: Sh. Narendra Singh, Senior Project Officer-II, 9415609007 Director, UPNEDA
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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S. M.S.MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No-F/MC/Procurement /2025-26/15022-25 Dated: 19/02/2026
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for Single-Plane Cath Lab On Turnkey Basis for Cardiology Department, Institute Of Cardiology SMS Medical College, Jaipur, are invited from interested bidders as per schedule in NIT Notice. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state: and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.
UBN SMS2526GLOB00688
Sd/- PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER
DIPR/C/4121/2026

Office Of Superintending Engineer
Irrigation Works Circle, Pithoragarh
पत्रांक: 744 / सिंकामपि / निविदा दिनांक:- 27.02.2026
E-Tender Notice No. 04/S.E./2025-26 Dated 27-02-2026
On behalf of Honorable Governor of Uttarakhand, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Works Circle, Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two bid system) for following work.
1- Hon'ble Chief Minister Announcement No. 243/2022, within the Champawat Assembly Constituency, construction work for flood protection on the right bank (embankment) of the Sharda River from Boom to Tanakpur, including flood protection works on the right bank of the Sharda River at Boom and Uchauligoth (Part-3), and construction of flood protection works for the protection of Basani Goth, Suwagoth, and Gendakhali No. 3 situated on the right bank (Part-4), and construction of flood protection works for the protection of 28 hectares area and Chiliyadhol located on the right bank (Part-5).
Note:-
All other tender related information will be available from date 01-03-2026 onwards at **https://uktenders.gov.in**
(H.C.Singh) Superintending Engineer

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CHANGE OF NAME

I KONATHAM JYOTHI W/O PARAMKUSAM SRINIVASA ANANTHA RAMANUJAM R/O of A004, ELEGANT EMBASSY NORTH APARTMENTS, 956/12/1, Jakkur Village, Bengaluru-560064 shall henceforth be known as PARAMKUSAM JYOTHI vide affidavit no IN-KA89188910964733Y sworn before notary S.R. RAVIKUMAR. dated 22-02-2026.

I, Sandhya Suresh Kumar, w/o Suresh Kumar R, R/O Hebbal, Bangalore, have changed my name from Sandhya Laxminarayana Kemtur to Sandhya Suresh Kumar for all future purposes.

I Rajnish Kumar Jha, Bangalore-560064, changed minor son's name "Baby One of Jyoti Jha" to "Reyansh Jha" vide Affidavit no. IN-KA93658788714427Y dt. 26-02-2026.

I Shivakumar S/o Kallappa, R/o No.51, 5th cross, New Byappanahalli layout, Indiranagar Bangalore -560038 have changed my name to Shivakumar Koli.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I am Muni Reddy S, R/at #135, near Yellamma temple, Munnekolala, Bangalore north, Marathahalli colony, Bangalore, Karnataka-560037, have lost original SALE DEED dt: 03/12/1973 registered as document No. 2493/1973-74 at page No 115 in volume No.2887 of Book-1 at Bangalore North taluk sub-register office which was executed by AECS SOCIETY LTD In favour of earlier owner B.S.Dattatreya Rao. Property is in #249 AECS LAYOUT SY No.12/1 Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore. If any body found please contact: 99000 91099, 9900323838, 9538858359 or submit to nearby police station

tender & notices

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SUV plunges into gorge; 3 killed

Shimla: Three people were killed and two seriously wounded after an SUV plunged into a 200m gorge in Rampur region near Shimla late Friday. Police have registered a case. TNN

T'gana HC grants bail to top Maoist in jail for 16 yrs, strikes down lower court's order

Pinto.Deepak@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: A top Maoist walked out of jail after 16 years on Friday after securing bail from the Telangana high court, which struck down the sessions court's reversal of its own decision of granting him bail.

Amitabh Bagchi, now 74, a politburo member of the banned CPI (Maoist), was arrested by Karimnagar police in 2010 in connection with a 2008 case and had been lodged at Cherlapally Central Prison.

Although Karimnagar sessions court granted Bagchi default bail in 2010, he remained in custody for years as he could not furnish sureties. After the charge sheet was filed, Bagchi sought regular bail and was granted relief by the sessions court in 2024. However, before he could furnish sureties, police challenged the order and the bail was cancelled.

He then moved the high court challenging cancellation of his bail. His counsel, B Nalin Kumar, argued that the sessions judge erroneously cancelled bail without any new circumstances or violations, particularly as the petitioner was in judicial custody at the time.

The state counsel contended that the accused operated on a pan-India scale and, if released, was likely to rejoin the Maoist organisation and evade trial. The state further argued that, as a senior member, he posed a threat to witnesses and was likely to tamper with evidence.

Urging dismissal of the plea, the state informed the HC that Bagchi had already been sentenced to life imprisonment and an additional eight years in two separate cases investigated by the NIA and Chhattisgarh police. Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the HC, while granting bail to Bagchi, observed that a court (sessions court here), once it disposes of a bail application, cannot review or alter its own decision under section 362 of the CrPC.

Setting aside the sessions judge's order, Justice Sridevi held that bail cannot be cancelled by the same court unless "supervening circumstances" arise, such as a violation of conditions or misuse of liberty.

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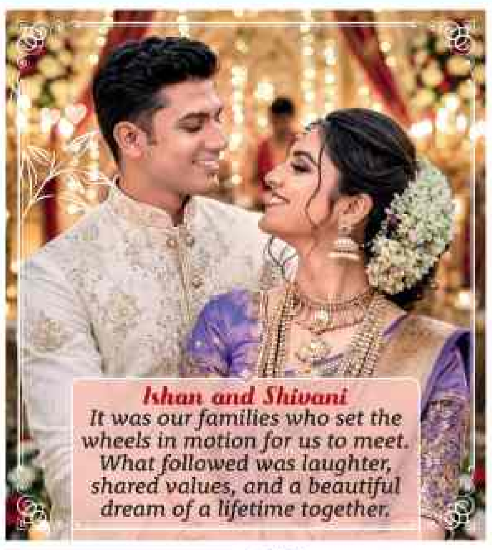
BRIDE for Kayasth boys 38/5'6" B.E. Manager, 34 LPA MNC Bangalore & 36/5'7" Software Engr 21 LPA MNC Pune Contact: 9305605501

B.Engg/Masters in Engineering Brahmin boy Dec 1995/ 5 '10' Wkg Asst Manager reputed firm Mumbai 10LPA. Parents Government employees seeks Prof.Qual.working girl . Whatsapp 8779631640



MATRIMONIALS

WANTED BRIDES

BY CASTE

BRAHMIN

SEEKING alliance match for Delhi based Maithil Brahmin Boy Sandilya Gotra, 34/5"10" MBA working in an Indian MNC (IT Sector), native place Godda Dist., Jharkhand, Looking for educated and beautiful preferably working Girl. Mobile-9811212079

TAMIL, BRAHMIN Kashyapa Gothram; 51 years, tall, good physique, single, IT Sr Manager, earning,70-80 Lakh, pa, Well to do Seeking a suitable unmarried bride from any Brahmin community, currently settled in Bangalore. Mobile 9900359142 Ramakarishnan

GAUR BRAHMIN Mglk boy 12/5/93, 5'6", BE chemical, wkg IT, Bangalore 65 LPA, Father Dr. Mother Gztd. Ofcr fmly bsd Bhopal. Seeks edu, suitable girl. 9425301716, 9826023716

BRAHMIN Iyer Vadamal 40 M.Tech(Food & Agri), MBA Salary 25L Bharani, Kousika Officer (OSD) Govt Hydrabad Any Brahmin ok Ct; 9985011906

SM4 47/6' B.Tech+MBA Brahmin boy, l'less divorcee, wkg abroad in MNC, veg, teetotaller, non-maglik, kkbganesha@gmail.com

WANTED Telugu brahmin bride for Telugu Brahmin Boy 38 yrs, Sr. Analyst in MNC, any sub sect, contact for the details Girish - 94441 56250

BRAHMIN, 38, 5'4", Fair, MBA,wkng at Chennai(Trsfbl to Blr/Hyd) skng Educated, Horoscope match optional, Ct: 9884614687 / 9543079078

WANTED BRIDE
For Fair, Handsome Brahmin Boy, Born 1991, 5'8". MBA from prestigious Stanford University (USA), BTech (CSE) from IIT (Double Gold Medalist). Rich Affluent Nuclear Business Family of IITians and IIMians from Bhopal, MP.
Mob.: 9399828743 drshamal141@gmail.com

KAYASTHA

B.TECH /MBA boy 93/5'10". Wkg MNC Bangalore 35 LPA. Seeks Prof. Qual. Wkg. girl. 9620251275.

BENGALI Kayastha, 30/ 5.2", Deva Gana, B.Tech, Working in MNC Bangalore with 15 LPA ,Educated, Fair, Pretty bride required. PH-9660111859, 7348842847

SUITABLE Match for handsome Kayasth boy from reputed family B. Tech. MBA (ISB) Sr Manager 35/5'10" U/C No Bar Cont. 9425426806

KHATRI

45/5'9" TALL divorcee belongs to high status family prefer middle and upper cast and beautiful very fair bride contact 9554222279

BRIDE WANTED
Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri High Status, Well Established Computer Engg (NIT), MBA (XLRI), Jamshedpur, very Handsome, very Fair, Clean Shaven, Convent Educated, Non Manglik Boy 35/5'10" having own Real Estates and Power Generation business (High metal income) in Jamshedpur. Looking for Punjabi girl of reputed family. No Dowry will be Accepted.
CONTACT : 6207121650 1983jamshedpun@gmail.com

TAMIL IYER

HINDU, Brahmin Kaashyapa, Rohini/BDS/dentist/ 30Yrs/ 170cms based in Chennai, own House, is seeking a girl, age difference 1-5 years Vegetarian, any Brahmin/ saiva pillai/ Saiva Mudaliyar Girl, good Family background. 8668127702

CHENNAI propertied unmarried Iyer male 53/180 MA DFT Project coordinator media seeks any graduate brahmin women except divorcees cell : 8056149246

SEEKING alliance for Iyer BrideGroom B.sc,MBA, 1/12/78, Kettai, Vadhulam, Ashtasahasram. Deputy Manager in Rane group Chennai 10LPA.Ct: 8939878808

HINDU Brahmin iyer athreya star aayilyam,Jayaram.A 28. 1-4 years difference working in Deloitte Coimbatore, (work from home). Ct : 70945 51014

ASSISTANT professor, NIT 30,Avittam Srivastava Gothram,Wanted bride educated good looking following our tradition.Ct : 94466 69054

PREFERABLY Res.in Kerala,Iyer groom 37yrs, B.Tech(EEE),Chithirai (Kanni) Athreya gothram, employed,in Kerala.89435 98971 / 94462 10553

IYER Vadamal Rohini 66yrs Six Lac PA Divorcee Girl Varan Below 35 Age to Give Birth to Child Ct : 94441 91969

TAMIL UDAYAR

35/5.5FT, Wheetish, Visagam, 1st Marriage, working in Pvt. Co, Chennai. Seeks bride from Any Caste, Divorcee / Widow (No Issue). Ct : 93818 00146

TAMIL VANNIYAR

VANIYAR, 33Yrs, M.E., B.Ed. Lecturer in Engg.College Coimbatore, Divorcee, seeks suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct : 99652 55135

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

SMART Gupta (Vaishya) 35/5'8" MBA 53LPA Associate Director Analytics working in Banglore UP Based family seeks Bride MBA, B.Tech. Contact- 9415558354, 7897279751.

BY PROFESSION

DOCTORS

DM Doctor (Dec-91,6'1", Tamil) seeks a tall, v.fair, virtuous PG Doctor/non-medico age around 30 yrs at Bangalore-9342529547, 9072118800

BRIDE for 26 Yr/ 5'9" Dr. Son (MBBS-Gold Medalist, Pursuing MD) Raj. Elt Cls Jain Family, Wtsapp. 6377867009

Beautiful medico girl for handsome kayastha boy jun 96/5'11' ms surgery rich doctors family west UPcast no bar 9897690800

SOFTWARE PROFESSIONAL

1996/ 5'8" BITS Pilani Grad, Software Engineer Amazon Pkg: 80L+, Veg/Teetotaler, Own Villa Bangalore, WhatsApp 95232-58936.

BY RELIGION

HINDU

BRAHMIN boy 29/180 handsome, good income non veg Chennai seeks bride (north Indian also.) Ct: 9042712025

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

AIRLINE Pilot (b. 1994, 5'10", fair, from a well-settled, liberal family) based at Bangalore seeks a cultured, attractive girl from a respectable family. Caste no bar. Email: subhash.health@gmail.com

32 yrs, 5'9", Fair, SC, BE, IIM working in FinTech, Ed-Tech entrepreneur; Bureaucrat parents, very affluent Telugu family at Hyderabad. Seeking well-educated bride (any caste), from good affluent family. Contact : 7386429462

SM4 Dubai based Kaashmiree Hindu boy, 42 years / 5' 11", not married, B Tech, MBA, MS in Big 4 firm. Seeks qualified girl from any decent family. Email shekharsaraf14@hotmail.com

1994 /6'3" BE wrkg Lead Stanchart GBS Bengaluru CTC 36 LPA. Father Ex IFS. Brother wrkg Amazon London. 7588020450

PHD, BTech IIT, Univ. Professor, US Green Card, Never Married, 45 yrs, 5' 7", Teetotaler, Vegetarian, Seeks bride below 37, No Caste bar. 8600315420

PQM4 Handsome Brahmin, 31Yr, 5'10",BTech, MBA ISB, Teetotaler, Non Smoking, CTC 40LPA, Wking Gurugram 7060884999,7060761485

ADVICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate / thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to claims and representations made by advertisers regarding particulars of status, age income of bride/groom.

COSMOPOLITAN

AMERICAN Non-Indian 38 Teacher Settled in California Step-Mom Maharashtrian. Traveled India Often. Seeks English-speaking Bride 27-35 NatureMan555A@gmail.com

FATHER Naidu, Mother Mudaliyar 27/9/99, Star - Revathi BE.BMS. Working in Dubai, Fair, seeks bride relocate to Dubai. Caste No Bar.Ct:97909 72121 / 98406 53206

H'SM Tall 46/6ft B.com N.Indian chirstian fly parents Dr. B'nssman mumbai bsd seeks Edu. Prof. Bride under40. E: sjcd04@zohomail.in 8591046319

Seeking Hindu, cosmopolitan, working, unmarried 33-35 yrs bride for 43yrs groom, 180cm, very fair CA-MBA Marwari divorcee (no kids). Leads large finance co, lives independently in Mumbai. Send bio/photo vex226677@gmail.com

SECOND MARRIAGE

40LPA MNC Ph.D. IIT Jan 88/6'1. Mumbai. No Issue. Seeks Prof Qual Working Issueless Bride. Brahmin Pref. Call/WA 9634266197

RELIGION NO BAR

Unmarried 37/5'10"B Tech-MBA IIM Sr. Mang. in MNC Pkg 50 Lac Rich Family Accpt Div and Widow No Dowry Cont: 9009486689, 7587736854

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

WELL-RAISED Bengali boy 41/5'5", 41 LPA MNC Bengaluru seeks an Unmarried, beautiful, educated, values peace and willing to live abroad Bengali girl, not exceeding 37/5'3" #9830015478, 8585871530

TELUGU

BRIDE wanted for Dr (DM Cardio) Telugu Naidu Bangalore based only child 93 handsome 6' Working in a corporate hospital family financially well off seeking well educated & settled girls even non medical also ok from general category only. Contact - 98455 83949.

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

PQM for USA based, Veg. Kaushal (Non brahmin) Pnjbi Manglik boy, Aug 93/5'10" MS, (CS) Boston Uni. Pref. india origin US girl. 70489-91210

WANTED GROOMS

BY CASTE

BRAHMIN

SMART NIT IIM Consultant in Top MNC 29/5'5" brahmin. PQM from IIT/IIM/ IIIT/MBA (Tier I)/MS/Edu. Enterprenur /general category,veg,eggtn. invited # 9833174456/7738365999

BENGALI BRAHMIN GROOM wanted for our DAUGHTER 24/5'1 MA Lit Working as English Teacher in Chennai 9566040530, 6380897345

MD Gynae from AIIMS, 26/5' 2" Beautiful Brahmin girl, Seeks MD/MS/DM/Mch Match from reputed Brahmin family send BHP dr.vivek@yahoo.com

GROOM Gen Caste within 36 wanted for a Bengali Brahmin Girl 33/ 5'2"PG ECONOMICS Sr Manager MNC at Bangaluru 40 LPA. 9874744499

SM4 41/5'7" PQ Brahmin girl wkg in MNC in SG, I'less divorcee, veg, teetotaller, non-maglik, kkbvishakha@gmail.com

BR girl April 91/5'3" IIT MS USA, B'lore wrkg USMNC 20 Lpa. Fmly MP Bsd, Seeks qlfd well stld Boy Br/Upper Caste Veg. 9424419272/ 7999279064

KAYASTHA

PQM Shrivastava 1997/5' Asst Director Glob Marketing & Advisory 25 LPA both parents doctor/ 8685105255/ 9425152272

KSHATRIYA

RAJPUT 31/5'7" slim, fair, girl, MBA from NMIMS (Mumbai) wkg in MNC, at present in London. Pref. IIT/-MBA match. Cont: 9984877000

TAMIL IYENGAR

HINDU iyengars, shada marshana gothram June 1994 looking for doctor, chennai, seeking well qualified boys pref iyengar/Iyer.Ct : 94440 34491

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

ALLIANCE from Agarwal / Bania, US Citizens, Professionals / Business Man / Doctors for well qualified 40 year old Agarwal girl, 5'3", family oriented, fair complexion, US Citizen, working in N J, well established family. Preferred vegetarian & Non drinker. Share profile with latest picture at urwelcome163@aol.com

1997/5'6" High EQ, compassionate, intellectual, spiritual girl. BA LLB (NLIU) + Awareness Coach. Family - progressive, educated, open minded. Looking for ambitious and established partner. Kindly share profile: 9311092952

B'FUL fair Garg girl,5'7" May' 86, N'married, MA Design Unv. Arts London Prof. with University in NCR. Seek qlfd match from well stld fmly. 9810833236

GARG MBA-IT BTech AUG 91/5'5" NM Sr Mgr Giant MNC Bengaluru Affluent fmly NCR Seek Hindu NM PQ IIT/IIM/Eq W'App Bio @ 9867568191

PQM4 35/164,slim,fair Garg girl, B.Tech(UPTU),MBA (Germany),wkg-sr.position leading Auto MNC Berlin (Germany) fthr rtd.PSU ofcr.Wt-9811924494

ARORA

TEETOTALER M4 Hindu Arora girl, Dec 88, 5'5", Software Engineer, 1 Cr+ p.a. Germany. Caste no bar. No bureaus. 9463317467

NORTH INDIAN

MATCH for Himachali convent educated Hindu girl 1989 born 5'4" PhD Biomedical Sciences working USA - 9418086604

RAJPUT

RAJPUT, Bisen,Vats, 93/5'5" Fair MBA/B.Tech girl in MNC,Father Ex-MP. Seeks Class-I Officer/IIT-IIM in MNC Call: 9013869161, 9836031348

BY PROFESSION

DOCTORS

MD/MS BRAHMIN M4 MBBS, MS OPTHALMOLOGY GARHWALI BRAHMIN GIRL 1995/5'3" FROM A DOCTOR'S FAMILY 9411536600 7983038968

SUITABLE match for twin daughters studying in the UK 5.3/30 yrs from grooms either residing in UK or Mumbai. Caste no bar. Contact father on WhatsApp 9082427905.

WANTED USA Resident Doctor (Medical only) / CPA for Green Card Doctor, Beautiful Punjabi Khatri Girl, Feb 94, Ph 8130656332

BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

CHENNAI settled Malayalee Catholic parents seek suitable alliance for their daughter 29/158 cm; B.Tech., MS., working in Europe. Prefer proposals from boys who are in Europe. Contact: 9600017351

HINDU

MALAYALI- Doctor (MD-Dermatology) girl, 31 based at Bangalore, Ezhava seeks professional, qualified, well settled groom from Hindu educated family. 9880050624

TRAINEE psychologist 81born divorcee 1son15 beaurucratic status family looking for well placed match Contact 9413340907

WANTED a groom job/ business man from Rajput/ upper caste for good looking, 31yrs, 5'8" B.E, CS, working Rajput girl. Cont: 8770148091, 6268474143

PQM4 Shakyawar/Kori UM girl Oct'87/5'8",B.Tech-MBA, pkg 40+LPA, Sr. Cybersecurity Prof MNC Mumbai, caste no bar. #8779651250

AGE 50 issueless Divorcee ACS Working in MNC seeks issueless groom CNB Contact : 6778873501

MUSLIM

SUNNI Muslim, never married, female, 41 years old, 165 cm tall, MS, PhD, MBA (all degrees from the USA), senior pharma AI executive, well settled in the US. Seeks sunni muslim male, preferably never married or widowed/divorced with no kids, 40 - 50 years old, over 172 cm tall, well educated and well settled in the US. Email. riazur12@gmail.com Mobile. 9840270093

SIKH

REPUTED Sikh Punjabi family of Patna seeks a compatible match for their daughter, lawyer, 39 yrs, 5'4", LL.M., graceful & accomplished. Seeking an educated, progressive groom from a well-settled, affluent Hindu family-CA/-Advocate/Doctor/Bureaucrat at preferred/ Businessman. No dowry. contact: 9934423838

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

MATCH for Punjabi Prajapati Girl 1998,5'4", B.Com, LLB , working in Hyderabad in Wells Fargo Bank group company earning Rs.65000 monthly, Caste No bar. Preferred Hindu boy settled/ working in Hyderabad. 9855072876

RAJPUT lawyer girl 97/5'7" practising in DHC coming from high status family seeks professionally qualified boy. #9818307246

BENGALI Buddhist unmarried 33/5'4" nonveg, works in BFSI sector (Mumbai), MBA-IIM, BE-JU, Parents lives in Kolkata. Seeking educated compatible partner M: 9231439779.

SEEKING alliance from upper caste for Bangalore based , beautiful girl 1995/5'6", M. Arch daughter of Army officer,mother, sister doctors.contact 9885186147

✔ **PQSM4** Sikh girl, June '89, smart, PG Diploma, B.Com, Working as Agility Lead in US MNC Hyderabad. Cont. 9247359182 (mother), 8390380566 (sister)

SM4 Kayasth Girl October 89/5'4"/fair/B.Tech. from IIT plus MBA (USA), 90 LPA works in Bangalore. Caste no bar. Phone : 9411219372, 9456600079

PQM4 37F5'6" hodophile gourmet fmily orientd Cls1offcr seeks WorkingProfsnl KindTallEductdCulturd groom BHP8928459886

IITD BTech, M.Tech girl (SC). Jul'92 Dir. Mrktg Blr Seeks professional qualified boy Caste no bar. Contact : 9636144948/9414941122

LOOKING for professional, slim,tall boy for a smart, good looking, 5'.5", Dec 94, Punjabi girl, working in BLR.call/whatsapp biodata on 9849640921

CA, smart, slim Punjabi girl 28/5'4" wkg in Australia seeks alliance from professional or business background WhatsApp only 9848051952

IAS officer ,Hindu , 55, 5 ft 3 , divorced , has a child , seeking well qualified , caring groom @ 8949651440 .

SC/ST

PQM (Prefer Govt./ Pvt. Job) 4 Jatav NM B'ful Girl Non.Veg/ 32/ 5'3"/ B.Com / Pvt. Job. Dowry Seeker Excuse. W'App: 7777019067

SECOND MARRIAGE

SM4 Veg Agarwal bful 1986, 5'7 PG in mgt tech wking as consulting exe in a leading MNC in NCR 50L living with a child WAPP 9817295021 nrgarg.math@gmail.com

MUMBAI based 34 years. Christian/ Punjabi. Divorcee, issueless. Sr. Cabin Crew with Air India, Only Pilots/ Indian Defence Grooms. Ph: 9833342212

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

SM4 Mumbai 1992 born 5'5" Slim fair B'ful Bengali Brahmin girl, Working in National Carrier (Airlines) at Delhi (Non Veg)Call: 9769885822

BENGALI Brahmin, Shandalya Gothra,Suitable Groom For Girl 23yrs/5feet working (MBA), Looking For Suitable match caste no bar 9837210224

PUNJABI

PQM from reputed well to do Family, for 166 cm, 26 yrs, very beautiful Punjabi girl, MBA, working in Delhi, father very senior officer in Central Govt. WA details/photos: 9150720439

TELUGU

GROOM wanted for Telugu Naidu only child Bangalore based well settled family 93 MS USA fair and beautiful 5.6', Working in California. Seeking for well educated & settled boys from Bangalore or USA, from general category only, girl willing to relocate to Bangalore only. Contact - 93412 66641.

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

OUR daughter '93/5'6" Hindu H1B fellow from reputed med school, very pretty friendly well mannered, now working as specialist doctor in US. Seeking suitable doctor groom from good family, working/ settled in US. Language caste no bar, reqst pic & full details W: 9894651124

PARENTS of Mogaveera Girl, 31/5'5", V.Fair, Smart, B.E. Comp. Sc - MS USA, H1B, Wkg Dallas, Texas, Seek Suitably Qlfd. Match, Well Setld in USA. Send Details: +91 9004233021

MBA (OK-US)CFO 44/5'2" Fair B'ful Divorcee, Agarwal, Financially sound, daughter (1), seeks suitable match in US only. Pagarwal81@gmail.com Caste No Bar 6393357951

PQM frm premier edu instut fr girl 26/5'4" wrkg in MNC Canada (PR), edu fmly NCR. Pfr PR/Ctzn boy wrkg Canada, edu fmly. 9217230314

SM4 bful Punjabi Hindu girl, Aug 94/5'4", MSc.(France),wkg MNC, DUBAI. Doctor parents. Seek qualifd, 30-34, tall NRI boy #9414088606, 9414500700.

PQ USA match 4 Aggarwal girl 88 born,5'-5" M.Tech IIT Delhi , MBA USA, employed San-Francisco H1B visa. Family Panchkula. 8968736677

43 5'5 butiful very fair wrg in euro lunkg 4 dwn 2 earth smart +917828482085 broker excus

BRIDES & GROOMS

TAMIL, SCA,32Yrs,Son,ME, MBA 17LPA; Daughters,29Yrs B.Tech,MBA,13LPA,IT& 26Yrs Bsc seek suitable Bride&Grooms,CNB.9441677205

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

KURUBA, 27, 170 cms, Masters in Medicine. Lives in Manchester, U.K. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off and lives in Mysuru. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366530296

BRAHMIN HOYSALA, 28, 170 cms, Engineer Non IT, Masters in Engg. Lives in Bangalore. Father was passed away. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366530296

VOKKALIGA, 27, 180 cms, Software Professional, Bachelors in Engg. Lives in Dubai. Father is a Deputy Director at ISRO. Family is financially well off and lives in Hassan. Looking for an amicable match. Contact: 6366530296

MUSLIM ROWTHER, 24, 178 cms, Director, Masters in Arts/Science/Commerce. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off and lives in Dubai. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366530296

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN VELANADU, 28, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Management. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366530296

GOWDA, 34, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Engg. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366530296

MUDALIYAR, 28, 163 cms, Engineer Non IT, Masters in Engg. Lives in Bangalore. Father is an Advocate in the Karnataka High Court. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366530296

BHOVI, 30, 160 cms, Dr. Anesthesiology, Masters in Medicine. Lives in Shivamogga. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366530296

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'We're seeing 'SuperAgers' aged 80+ with memory as sharp as 40-year-olds — neurogenesis powers this'

__Tamar D. Gefen__ is Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern University. Speaking to __Srijana Mitra Das__ at __Times Evoke__, Gefen discusses new data on growing better with age:

Please describe your research?

■ The SuperAgers study at Northwestern University was developed 25 years ago. Its goal is to examine individuals over the age of 80 who have the memory capacity of people aged 30 or 40 years younger. This aims to identify factors that contribute to outstanding memory performance despite ageing, so we can protect people from diseases that target memory, such as Alzheimer's.

We've amassed a unique database now. In our new findings published this week, we've examined the hippocampus of SuperAger brains. This is the primary region of the brain responsible for learning and memory. It also gets hit by Alzheimer's neuropathology first — hence, memory problems develop. We've collaborated with a team led by Professor Orly Lazarus (*see right*) at the University of Illinois on this.

Neurogenesis is the ability for new neurons to develop in the brain. For many years, it wasn't even known if this happened at all in human beings. Orly's team has provided biological proof now that neurogenesis does exist in us and it happens in an area of the hippocampus, which is fascinating with regard to how we humans encode, learn and remember.

Neurogenesis itself takes place in stages — think of human development, starting from the womb to birth, childhood to adolescence, young adulthood, mature adulthood and ageing. Neurons go through a similar trajectory — they start as stem cells, become neuroblasts and progenitor cells, turn into immature neurons, then mature adult neurons. Orly found SuperAgers had upto two and a half times more the amount of immature neurons in their hippocampus than normal peers. This is incredible as this stage of neurogenesis is particularly reflective of plasticity — it means the brain is flexible. So, here is biological proof that brain plasticity is possible in humans — and it still continues in our 80s and 90s.

iStock

UPLIFTING: 'SuperAgers' show human minds, even after hard times, can stay sharp well into our 90s — linked to neurogenesis, scientists will see if lifestyle choices shape this

Which factors shape such neurogenesis?

■ This study suggests genetics of the cell are absolutely critical for neurogenesis. Orly has even shown how in Alzheimer's, the genetic programs are all in an inverse pattern compared to the SuperAgers' genetic code. This is not hereditary genetics here but the DNA that tells each cell what to do.

There is a possibility that epigenetics or lifestyle choices play a role — these could potentially be involved in regulating and modulating the genes embedded in that genetic code — however, we have not confirmed that yet. It's true generally that good diet, low stress, exercise, no smoking, etc., help prevent dementia — whether these have a direct effect on neurogenesis is not known. This is the next step in our research. Animal models do show all these factors plus 'enrichment' — socialisation — do cause differences in neurogenesis.

What are some other striking characteristics of SuperAgers?

■ They have outstanding memory but their other cognitive domains, like attention, planning and organising, also do well. Further, we see some domains performing even better than others — for example, their ability to retrieve words or use language during speech tends to be faster. Next, they tend to be highly extroverted and have very close social relationships, which is not just about the number of bonds but their quality. They also tend to score low on neuroticism — many of us are very neurotic and anxious now but these people are not. Importantly, SuperAgers are not necessarily higher IQ than their peers, they don't necessarily have better education or come from more affluent backgrounds — there is equal potential thus for everyone to become a SuperAger and live long, healthy and rich lives.

Does neurogenesis influence their positive approach to life — or could it be the other way around?

■ I don't know. I'm hesitant to give an answer to that yet. The data is correlative. These people do have an openness and connect more — is that because of neurogenesis? It could be — but even then, it is just one factor in a much larger tapestry.

Orly used a very beautiful phrase in her paper which is biologically-based — she said these people have a 'resilience signature'. I would expand that beyond biology to emotional, psychological, physical and social resilience. Some of these SuperAgers have gone to hell and back — some are Holocaust survivors. Some have experienced abuse and trauma, others have suffered incarceration and poverty. They are incredibly diverse people who have not had the easiest lives — and they have made it to old age, thriving.

Could the future thus bring medical treatments specifically to improve neurogenesis?

■ Yes, it's a possibility. Orly has uncovered the genetic expression pattern of neurogenesis and, in a way, neuron resilience. If you're able to develop, say, a genetic editing tool to mimic the resilience signature or modify the code in someone who is at high risk genetically for Alzheimer's, that could be an avenue for treatment.

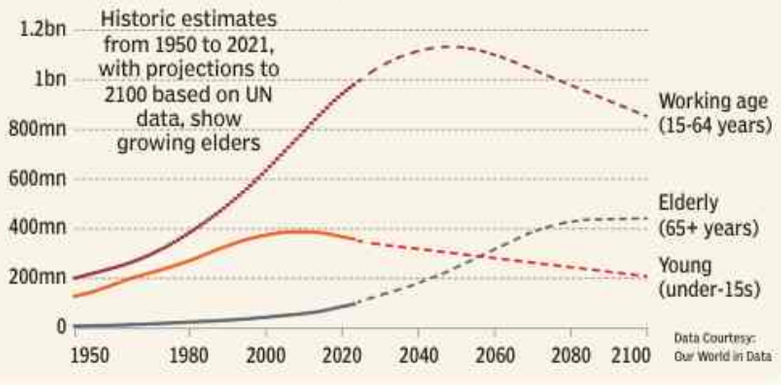
Also, there is a type of inflammatory cell known as an astrocyte — this study shows that is also part of the hippocampal environment, allowing for a more enriched atmosphere for neurogenesis to occur. These cells are part of the brain's immunity system. So, another avenue could be to manipulate this in a very targeted way with, say, an astrocyte marker, relying on them to enhance the hippocampal environment for better neurogenesis. This will all take time — but it's an incredible starting point.

What are the implications of this very hopeful study?

■ Plasticity, newness and usefulness in a biological sense are possible even as we age. We now have physical evidence of this. Down the line, we will be able to actively prescribe treatments towards this. Until then, we must proceed very carefully and methodically in our research.

Views expressed are personal

OLDER & WISER: YOUNG, WORKING & ELDERLY INDIANS:



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TIMES evoke
BRING THE WORLD HOME

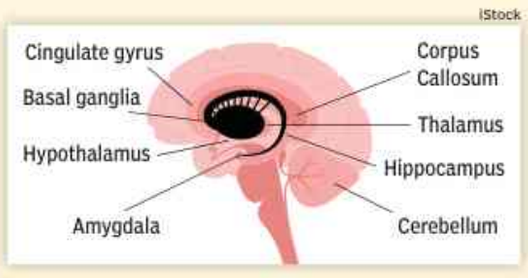
'Halting cognitive decline will boost us as we age'

***Orly Lazarov** is Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, the University of Illinois, Chicago. Speaking to __Srijana Mitra Das__ at __Times Evoke__, Lazarov discusses her new study — and its future potential:*

In an era of troubling news comes a scientific discovery which shows our memories need not fade as we age — in fact, they could be as sharp and vivid as people decades younger. The implications are enormous for societies with growing numbers of ageing people, tight retirement cutoffs and notions of 'youth' underpinning creative, innovative thought.

Perhaps given its many implications, Orly Lazarov, leading scientist of the SuperAger study, is so measured with her words about it. Describing her work, Lazarov, sitting in an office brimming with books, says, 'Along with cognitive decline in ageing and Alzheimer's Disease, I research hippocampal neurogenesis as a form of plasticity in cognitive function.'

iStock



Why exactly are neurons so core to our well-being? Lazarov says, 'Neurons are one of the principal components of the brain — they're the brain's cellular foundation. They work in concert with other cells to determine brain function.' She adds, 'Neurogenesis is the formation of new neurons from neural stem cells. This is a unique phenomenon that takes place in the hippocampus, an area critical for memory formation. Such brain plasticity is critical for learning and memory.'

Is neurogenesis the same across all humans or does it differ? Lazarov says, 'This study shows the process is profound in young adults while Alzheimer's patients show very little neurogenesis. In SuperAgers, older individuals with exceptional memory, this process is enhanced. We think one reason their brains work so well is more neurogenesis and a unique molecular signaling supporting this.'

Do lifestyle choices also increase neurogenesis? Lazarov is economical in her response, 'It could be — but this is not something we have looked into. Our study researched the molecular signature of neurogenesis in SuperAger brains. Rodent and primate data show lifestyle can change levels of neurogenesis but we can't conclude that for humans here.'

So, could medical treatments in the future specifically target neuron growth in people? Lazarov nods. 'Yes. Our hope is to develop a therapeutic approach that would enhance neurogenesis and support cognitive function in ageing. We're hoping this will help us prevent dementia and cognitive decline.' The scientist's voice softens just a shade. 'If we can support cognitive function, ageing people will continue being active members of society.'

What is the most important message from this study? Lazarov replies, 'Cognitive decline is not a necessity or decree of aging. SuperAgers are the best example — if we just learn how to translate their molecular network of signaling in the brain into a therapeutic approach, that would support other brains growing older to perform better.'

Views expressed are personal

TMC cries 'silent rigging', BJP insists on error-free roll

Dwaipayan Ghosh, Sanjib Chakraborty & Rohit Khanna | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal's final SIR of electoral rolls triggered a fierce political showdown Saturday after Trinamool Congress alleged "silent invisible rigging" by Election Commission to favour "Delhi's zamindars", an apparent reference to the BJP brass, citing deletions and "under adjudication" tags affecting an MLA, a councillor and family members. Congress, CPM and SUCI said the rolls remain error-prone despite EC assurances.

Trinamool Congress claimed that in the SIR list, Amdanga MLA Rafiqur Rahaman was marked "under adjudication" and the names of Naihati municipality councillor Sushanta Sarkar and his mother were deleted. TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh labelled SIR a BJP ploy, alleging booth-level officers said that names were struck off despite documents being submitted, with living voters shown as dead and names of deceased voters being retained.

BJP denied any wrongdoing. Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya said that comments would follow the completion of claims and objections, insisting that EC must deliver an error-free roll.

Concerns over large-scale deletion of Matua voters drew comments from junior Union minister Santanu Thakur, who said that people who came from Bangladesh before Dec 31, 2024, due to religious persecution would get Indian citizenship. "They will not be deported, but deletions fall under EC's remit and we cannot comment on it," Thakur said.

Opposition parties claim discrepancies persist. State Congress chief Subhankar Sarkar displayed a death certificate to allege that a dead voter was listed in Bhowanipore and a Naihati voter who was alive was marked dead.

CPM's Sujan Chakraborty said that the poor and marginalised — Hindus and Muslims alike — are bearing the brunt. SUCI said many of the roughly 60 lakh names under scrutiny feel threatened.

After hearings, celebs make it to Bengal's final voter list

Amartya Sen, Joy Goswami Among Names

Priyanka Dasgupta & S Boral

Kolkata/Santiniketan: The names of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, poet Joy Goswami, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew Chandra Bose, and actors Dev and Mimi Chakraborty — all of whom were summoned for SIR hearings — have appeared on West Bengal's final voter list, published on Saturday.

On Jan 7, Sen was served notice by Election Commission of India (ECI) for a hearing due to a discrepancy in the age difference between him and his mother, Amita Sen. The notice stated that there was less than a 15-year age difference between Amartya Sen and his mother. The actual age difference between the mother and son is 19.5 years. Gitikantha Mazumder, who looks after the official matters for Amartya Sen in Santiniketan, said: "It is a great relief that finally his name is included. We express our thanks to ECI officials who immediately took steps to resolve the matter."

Sen was served a notice due to a discrepancy in the age difference between him and his mother

Goswami approached Supreme Court, highlighting the need to revise the SIR process. The Sahitya Akademi winner said that the process created an "atmosphere of fear", with many elderly people having to stand in queues and some even dying from stress and anxiety.

The poet was not in a position to personally attend the hearing in Jan. His daughter, Bukun, who coordinated the effort, told **TOI** that Goswami's name is on the final list. "This is a relief for us, but the current process is causing too much harassment. One can't ignore what efforts we had to make to ensure our names are there," she said.

Bose was also relieved that his name figured on the list. "Most of us who could provide all relevant documents are included in the final list. But many genuine voters who could not provide the documents are left out," he added.

Bose said that SIR was an essential exercise which must be conducted at regular intervals. "However, the way it was done in West Bengal unnecessarily and seriously inconvenienced voters. Linkage issues and logical discrepancies occurred mostly due to haphazard data entry. In a nation where politicians and ministers are not able to provide documents stating their basic qualifications, how can one expect the underprivileged to provide documents to prove their voting rights," he questioned.

Actor-turned-TMC MP Dev, who was summoned for hearing on Jan 14, confirmed his name featured on the list.

"The names of all my family members are on the list. My sister was called for a hearing. Her name is also there," actor and ex-TMC MP Chakraborty told **TOI**.

'D' voters whose cases are disposed of within deadline can vote

▸ Continued from P 1

Only those 'doubtful' voters whose cases are disposed of within the prescribed deadline can vote in the upcoming Bengal election, which may be announced in the second half of March.

It remains to be seen how much time the judicial officers will take to dispose of cases of the 60 lakh 'doubtful' voters in West Bengal. The cases of thousands of 'doubtful' or 'D' voters in Assam, categorised as such since 1997 and not allowed to vote, have been under adjudication by the foreigners tribunals for decades.

Protests broke out after the list was published. In Bankura, about 1.2 lakh names were cut a protestors blocked roads for hours. Police rescued a BLO in Salanpur after 134 of 632 voters at one booth were marked deleted or under adjudication

Only after the tribunals declare the 'D' voters as bona fide citizens can they vote. If ruled as foreigners, they are sent to detention centres and deportation proceedings initiated. The judiciary-appointed officers in West Bengal will now have to do the same for those categorised as 'doubtful' voters due to SIR, ostensibly on grounds of being Bangladeshis.

So effectively, the judicial officers will act like foreigners tribunals, examining and confirming citizenship of 'doubtful' electors before restoring their voting rights.

At the start of special intensive revision (SIR) exercise on Oct 27, 2025, the electorate of West Bengal stood at nearly 7.7 crore. The draft roll published on Dec 16, 2025, put the strength of electorate at 7.08 crore after 58.2 lakh deletions. The final roll published on Saturday listed 6.4 crore voters, with 3.6 lakh net deletions since draft roll publication.

Menaka a key counsel in Section 377 battle & Bengal govt cases

▸ Continued from P 1

I look forward to representing the interests of the people of West Bengal & to serve 'We the People' of India," Menaka Guruswamy said in her post on X on Saturday.

A senior advocate who was part of the legal team that argued in the historic constitutional case in Supreme Court that resulted in the decriminalisation of homosexuality, she has also represented the West Bengal govt in key legal battles.

It was no secret that many people in the queer community felt disappointed after the Supreme Court verdict fell short of providing marriage equality. As senior SC advocate and member of the queer community Saurabh Kirpal said, "She has given us hope that someone of outstanding merit need not be denied a position they deserve just on the grounds of sexuality."

Anjali Gopalan, the Naz Foundation executive director, who is an advocate of LGBTQI rights, says, "It is wonderful. I am sure it will make a difference to the way people see and understand queer community. Very often we see in the media that queer people are made fun of. No one sees them as lawyers, doctors, architects. This is changing now, especially because of people like her."

Guruswamy has been open about her relationship with fellow lawyer Arundhati Katju.

In 2023, former diplomat Vivek Katju wrote a personal piece on his journey in accepting his daughter Arundhati and her partner, expressing his initial shock and despair when he found out about her sexuality.

Responding to the nomination, NCP spokesperson Anish Gawande posted on X, "This is an India that's not willing to wait. An India where LGBTQ+ people are not pieces of token representation but trailblazers in their field."

Menaka Guruswamy is the daughter of public policy analyst Mohan Guruswamy, who was adviser to the finance minister in Vajpayee govt

Incidentally, Sunil Babu Pant is a LGBTQIA+ rights activist who became Asia's first openly gay federal-level legislator, serving in Nepal's Constituent Assembly from 2008 to 2013.

Guruswamy is the daughter of public policy analyst Mohan Guruswamy, who was advisor to the finance minister in Vajpayee govt. She started her career in 1997 under former Attorney General Ashok Desai. She was amicus curie in the 1,528 alleged extra-judicial killings in Manipur, worked on cases related to the Right to Education Act and the bureaucratic reforms case. The nomination has also invited a backlash. Union MoS Sukanta Majumdar says that Guruswamy was nominated as "payback" for fighting Banerjee's case.

Guruswamy was on Foreign Policy magazine's list of 100 most influential Global Thinkers for 2019 along with Arundhati Katju. In 2017, her portrait was unveiled at Rhodes House in Oxford University.

Guruswamy was educated at Oxford University, Harvard Law School and National Law School of India.

She was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and a Gammon Fellow at Harvard. She has been visiting faculty at Yale Law School, New York University School of Law and University of Toronto Faculty of Law. She was the B R Ambedkar research scholar and lecturer in law at Columbia Law School from 2017-2019, where she taught constitutional design in post-conflict democracies.

SC: Make prisons reformative, give women right to open jails

'Inmates Must Have Access To Family'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

Apex court directed state committees to file quarterly reports on implementation of SC-directed reforms in open prisons before the jurisdictional high courts

New Delhi: In an effort to transform India's punitive prison system into reformative centres, the Supreme Court has mandated radical reforms and ruled that women inmates, like male prisoners, have a fundamental right to be lodged in open correctional institutions (OCIs), which must change character from labour camps to vocational training centres and allow inmates' regular access to their families.

Penning a 138-page magnum opus of a judgment on what ails the Indian prison system and the judicially devised antidotes, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta appointed former SC judge S R Bhat as chairperson of a high powered committee to frame a nationally consistent common minimum standards for "Reforms and Governance of Open Correctional Institutions" within six months.

It asked states, which do not have open jails, to establish these institutions and mandated setting up of multi-layered monitoring systems to ensure that its series of directions are scrupulously complied with in a time bound manner.

It posted the next hearing on the matter on Sep 1.

It directed state committees to file quarterly reports on implementation of SC directed reforms in open prisons before the jurisdictional HCs, which in turn will file yearly reports before SC every March 31.

Writing the judgment for the bench, Justice Mehta said, "Exclusion of women from OCIs, or failure to transfer them despite being eligible for transfer from closed prisons to OCIs, amounts to blatant gender discrimination, violative of Articles 14 and 15(1) of the Constitution, and also infringes upon their right to live with dignity as guaranteed under Article 21."

He said, "Denial of access to open correctional institutions deprives women prisoners of equal opportunity for rehabilitation and cannot be sustained in a constitutional order committed to equality, dignity and the transformative promise of justice. Immediate and effective corrective measures are, therefore, imperative in this regard."

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road,
Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2865 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/AD(F)/SA/10/2021-22 **Date: 26.02.2026**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Express on of Interest called for audit of KSAPS accounts for the period 2025-26. For More Details visit KSAPS website: https://ksaps.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for submission of EOI in sealed cover to this office **on or before 20/03/2026 upto 5.30 p.m.**

Sd/- Project Director
KSAPS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CT/NAA/2025-26

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG - C- 2026-36

Description of work :PHN: Provision of 3.6 km RCC boundary wall along the track on approaches of Pokhrayan station under ADEN/CNB sub division.

Approx Cost : 31954933.62 **Earnest Money : 309800.00**

Date of completion /period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months

Date of closing Tender : 27/03/2026 at 15:00 hrs.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG - C- 2026-38

Description of work : Orai: Provision of 4.0 Km RCC boundary wall along the track on approaches of Orai under ADEN/CNB sub division.

Approx Cost : 35330731.43 **Earnest Money : 326700.00**

Date of completion /period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months

Date of closing Tender : 27/03/2026 at 15:00 hrs.

• Tender on line can be submitted up to **15:00 hrs** on **27.03.2026.**
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** 456/26 (D)

North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice No: 2026-Feb-03 **Dated: 27.02.2026**

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under:

S. N.	Tender No.	Approx. Cost (₹)
1	2026-Feb-03-01	₹ 35695432.74
Description of work: Provision of Height Gauges (Total 50 nos) as per standard RDSO drawing at Various LCs in IDH-BKI & IDH-BXN section.		
2	2026-Feb-03-02	₹ 41122404.20
Description of work: Provision of Toolboxes with Rest rooms for each Gang/Units under SSE/P. Way under Sr. DEN/II/Agra.		
3	2026-Feb-03-03	₹ 1210838.52
Description of work: Supply of potable water at different stations HK, PPEA, IK, KL & MURD in IDH-BKI Section for a period of 01 year.		
4	2026-Feb-03-04	₹ 80302682.80
Description of work: Construction of new Type-II(12 Units), Type-III(08 Units) & Type-IV(12 Units) quarters at various stations in Idgah-Bayana section.		
5	2026-Feb-03-05	₹ 7257040.60
Description of work: Provision of 43 porter hut in Agra division.		
6	2026-Feb-03-06	₹ 15106033.42
Description of work: (A) Repair to staff quarters in railway colony in KSV-PWL section under jurisdiction of ADEN-I/MTJ. (B)Roof Replacement & Repair Of BEDM Station Building in MTJ-AWR Section under jurisdiction of ADEN-II/MTJ.		
7	2026-Feb-03-07	₹ 25287642.02
Description of work: Provision of Height Gauges (Total 35 nos.) as perStandard RDSO drawing at various LCs in Mathura-Alwar & Mathura-Palwal sections..		
8	2026-Feb-03-08	₹ 41250539.10
Description of work: Provision of Toolboxes with Rest rooms for each Gang/Units under SSE/P. Way under Sr. DEN/I/Agra.		

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **"www.ireps.gov.in"**. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** up to 15.00 hrs. on 20.03.2026. **468/26(DG)**

North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by Principal Chief Material Manager, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos/Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1	14261010 24.03.2026	PU Paints for LHB Coaches	648 Set	5,99,180/-
2	02261045 18.03.2026	Harness of Underframe & Roof Arrangement for LHB EOG Second AC Chair Car Coaches		2,22,280/-
3	15235267C 17.03.2026	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 800 KVA transformer level 2 or above, as per Spec No. RCF/EL/MRS/800 KVA/TR/Level II	06 Nos	2,05,090/-
4	05261144 23.03.2026	Set of Roof For TC for Vande Bharat Coaches	16 Set	2,08,680/-
5	17261096 23.03.2026	Design, Development, Supply & Installation of The Interior Items Includes Sidewall, Ceiling, Doorway Area Paneling And Partitions To HL-3 Complaint Interiors By Sheet Moulding Compound (SMC) Process Interior of LHB SCN Coaches (No Gaps/Crevices in Interior).	20 Set	5,50,740/-
6	02251676 20.03.2026	Fire Barrier Sealant		1,02,080/-
7	05261146 23.03.2026	Set of flat Roof for HS Spart Tool Van 1 Coaches (PL no. 33548298)	9 set	1,11,470/-
8	07251510 20.03.2026	Steel Wire 1.2MM in Spool of Weight Approx 15 kg.	55216 Kg	1,05,990/-
9	07251502 20.03.2026	Stainless Steel Wire 1.2MM Diameter in spool of Wt. 12.5 kgs (Approx)	162417 Kg	9,46,500/-
10	07251514 30.03.2026	Stainless Steel Wire 1.0 MM Diameter in spool of Weight 12.5 (Approx)	23176 Kg	1,30,720/-
11	05251519A 16.03.2026	Set of Door Cut Out	255 Set	3,18,950/-
12	05261124 20.03.2026	Set of Partition Frame	210 Set	6,12,900/-
13	02261087 23.03.2026	External Emergency Light	480 Set	3,68,160/-
14	05261115 11.03.2026	Set of Partition Frame	169 Set	20,00,000/-
15	05261107 11.03.2026	Secondary Energy	619 Nos	1,39,070/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in. Class IIIB digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at http://www.cce.gov.in.**
2. Tenders will close at **14:25 HRS** on due date and tender will be opened at **14:30 HRS.** Tenders **Sr. No. 1 to 7** will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala (Punjab) & **Sr. No. 8 to 15** will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi.
3. Tenderers are advised to submit the tender cost online through **Electronic Mode Through Payment Gateway/ Facility on the IREPS Website.**
4. For queries contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855,011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.
Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM: The following amendments are authorized against. **(1) Tender No.** 17261029 due on 23/02/2026 **Due date may be read as** 02.03.2026 **instead of** 23.02.2026. **(2) Tender No.** 17261001 due on 23/02/2026 **Due date may be read as** 02.03.2026 **instead of** 23.02.2026. **(3) Tender No.** 17261004 due on 26/02/2026 **Due date may be read as** 05.03.2026 **instead of** 26.02.2026. **(4) Tender No.** 17261006 due on 26/02/2026 **Due date may be read as** 05.03.2026 **instead of** 26.02.2026. **(5) Tender No.** 17261001 due on 02/03/2026 **Due date may be read as** 05.03.2026 **instead of** 02.03.2026. **To be read as** Clarification given in NIT **instead of** Durability Test. **(6) Tender No.** 17261029 due on 05/03/2026 **Due date may be read as** 05.03.2026 **instead of** 02.03.2026. **EMD to be read as** Rs. 8,72,700/- **instead of** Rs. 6,78,210/-. **Regarding** Drawing of PL No. 33697826 **To be read as** Revised, **Quantities To be read as** Revised, **Delivery Schedule To be read as** Revised, **To be read as** Clarification given in NIT **instead of** Durability Test. **(7) Tender No.** 17261004 due on 05/03/2026 **To be read as** Clarification given in NIT **instead of** Durability Test. **To be read as** Warranty Revised **instead of** Warranty Clause. **(8) Tender No.** 17261006 due on 05/03/2026 **To be read as** Clarification given in NIT **instead of** Durability Test. **To be read as** Warranty Revised **instead of** Warranty Clause. **(9) Tender No.:** 13255417 due on 27.02.2026 for procurement of CNC Axle Turning Lathe. **Due date may be read as** 16.03.2026 **instead of** 27.02.2026. **PCMM**

R.O. No. 137-S/2025-26 **Dated: 28.02.2026**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-27-2
Dated: 23.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for provision of 1 additional loop line at Ginigera (GIN) Station.	Rs. 1,18,40,130.40/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 24.03.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi

PUB/936/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-35
Dated: 23.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for Provision of 2 additional loop lines at Bannikoppa (BNA) station.	Rs. 1,76,29,161.30/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 24.03.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi

PUB/936/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-30-1
Dated: 23.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for Provision of 1 additional loop line (5th Line) at Navalgund Road (NVD) station.	Rs. 1,25,94,043.40/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 24.03.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi

PUB/935/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-39
Dated: 23.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Implementation of Cyber Security measures in SCADA System for 25 kV and 2x25 kV single phase 50 Hz Traction Power Supply of Ashida make in Hubballi Division.	Rs. 5,23,80,442.18/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 25.03.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi

PUB/934/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E- TENDER NOTICE

PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **[A] Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/26/07, Dated: 17/02/2026. Sl. No; Tender No.; Description of Stores ; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost** are as follows : **[015]; 29263005;** MIG Wire Dia 1.2MM CU Coated Solid CO2 Class 1 IRSM-46/13 IS:6419-2004[Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5 % , Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max **8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Document; 30/03/2026; ₹0.00. [016]; 25255152;** DIGITAL OCT Swept Source technology, Multi model fundus imaging, Diagnostic possibilities like Flulorescein Angiography(FA) and fundus auto fluorescence (FAF) diagnostic possibilities as per Technical specification attached; **As Per Tender/Document; 01/04/2026; ₹0.00. [017]; 23265013; 1.** 3-pin connector (Type ITTC-1032 KPSE6E12 or equivalent) for fitment to sensor plate as per CLW drawing no. **CLW/ES/3/SK-2/0153,** Rev-04 and CLW **specification no. CLW/ES/3/0528,** Alt. A, **2.** 5 pin connector (Type-ITTC-1031 KPSE6E14 or KPSE06PG20A-6S-PGA6D or equivalent) for fitment to sensor plate as per CLW **drawing no. CLW/ES/3/SK-2/0153,** Rev-04 and CLW **specification no. CLW/ES/3/0528,** Alt. A; **As Per Tender/Document; 09/03/2026; ₹0.00. [B] Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/26/08 , Dated: 25/02/2026. Sl. No; Tender No.; Description of Stores ; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost** are as follows : **[018]; 14262934;** Auto Flasher Circuit For Three Phase Loco Specn: CLW/ES/3/0481; **As Per Tender/Document;** 18/03/2026; **₹0.00. [019]; 31252689A;** Scotch Danger Caution Tape As Per Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0161/A or latest (Set Details attached in Doc. Tab) ; **As Per Tender/Document;** 24/03/2026; **₹0.00. [020]; 25255153;** 1. Centrifuge Machine With 16 Holes and Rotor Head (Make: Remi, Model: Neya 2(S16-5) Specification attached, 2. Blood Donar Couch for Modular Blood Centre, Make-Remi,Model-DZIRE-2X Specification attached, 3. BLOOD BAG TUBE SEALER (Battery Operated) (Make: Rami, Model: Weld On P) Specification attached, 4. Automated Chemiluminescence Immunoassay Analyzer (CLIA) (Make: J.Mitra, Mkt By : Avant or, Model: Maglumi X3) Specification attached; **As Per Tender/Document;** 27/04/2026; **₹0.00.**

PR8/304 **PCMM/CLW/Howrah**

Like us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH

Sector-30, Noida, 201303
www.pgich.edu.in, Email: irf.sspginoida@gmail.com

Advt.No.PGICH,Noida/IRF/Tender/2026/10 **Date-28.02.2026**

Tender No.	Tender Name
PGICH/IRF/ Tender/ 2025-26/16 Date- 27.02.2026	**1. Medical Genetics Consumable items.** BID NO 01 : GEM/2026/B/7294932, Date : 26.02.2026 BID NO 02 : GEM/2026/B/7295018 Date : 26.02.2026 BID NO 03 : GEM/2026/B/7291804 Date : 25.02.2026 **2. Leukocyte filter for blood transfusion set.** BID NO : GEM/2026/B/7267145, Date : 11.03.2026

Details available on Gem portal **www.gem.gov.in** and on website **www.pgich.edu.in**. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer partially or fully without assigning any reason.

Tel: 0120-2455561, 456728 **Director**

JAIPUR CITY TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED

No. :- MD/JCTSL/2024-25/D - 3699 Date :- 27/02/2026

Corrigendum-01

This is with reference to JCTSL Bid no 07/2025-26 published on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** UBN No.JCT2526SLOB00009 and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** Tender ID 2026_JCTS_532359_1, Some amendments are made. Detail of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from above mentioned websites and JCTSL Website **(http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jctsl).**

Managing Director
JCTSL, Jaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/25/21621

Government Of Rajasthan
Commissionerate of Horticulture
Pant Krishi Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur-302005

Email: jdh.css.hort@rajasthan.gov.in
Phone No. 0141-2227606, 9928491095

Short Term Notice Inviting Bid

BID REF. NO. F 21( )MD/CSS/PC/RC/2025-26/1812 **dated: 20.02.2026**

The Commissioner Horticulture, Commissionerate of Horticulture invites e-bids from eligible bidder for Rate contract for supply & installation of green house and shade net house along with micro irrigation and other related facilities at the farmer's fields under Horticulture Development Schemes in Rajasthan. Estimated cost for the supply and installation of green house is rupees 160 Cr. and for shade net house is rupees 35.50 Cr. only. Detailed bid document, can be downloaded from the State E- Procurement portal www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or from the state procurement portal www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or from department website www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in from 20.02.2026 at 6.00 pm and the bids can be submitted online up to 05.03.2026 by 3.30 PM
UBN : HOR2526GLRC00215

Sd/-
Commissioner Horticulture

DIPR/C/4582/2026

उत्तराखण्ड भूस्खलन न्यूनीकरण एवं प्रबंधन केन्द्र
(यू.एल.एम.एम.सी.)

Website: https://www.ulmmc.in E-Mail: ulmmc.ddn@gmail.com

[illegible] Date: 27/02/2026

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

उत्तराखण्ड भूस्खलन न्यूनीकरण एवं प्रबंधन केन्द्र (यू.एल.एम.एम.सी.), देहरादून द्वारा कार्यालय उपयोगार्थ विभिन्न श्रेणी के वाहनों को किराये पर लिये जाने हेतु पात्र एवं अनुभवी वाहन सेवा प्रदाताओं/फर्मों से निम्नलिखित पैकेज हेतु निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त प्रपत्र उत्तराखण्ड ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट https://uktenders.gov.in दिनांक 28.02.2026 से दिनांक 04.04.2026, समय 12.00 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकेंगे। निविदा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि 04.04.2025, समय 2.00 बजे तक निर्धारित है।

निविदा शुल्क धरोहर राशि, पात्रता शर्तें एवं अन्य विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है।

S.No	Package No.	Name of Package
1	01/SUV Vehicle/RFB/ ULMMC 2025 26	Hiring of SUV Vehicle service provider for ULMMC
2	02/Sedan Vehicle/RFB/ ULMMC 2025-26	Hiring of Sedan Vehicle service provider for ULMMC
3	03/Other Vehicle/RFB/ ULMMC 2025-26	Hiring of Other Vehicle service provider for ULMMC

Note:- 1. The corrigendum for the above package will be uploaded on website https://uktenders.gov.in
2. Email id ulmmc.ddn@gmail.com may be contacted for any information.

महानिदेशक,
यू.एल.एम.एम.सी., देहरादून

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम-जोधपुर

क्रमांक:-17463 दिनांक:-18.02.2026

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 36/पीएमजीएसवाई/2025-26

NIB No. PWD2526A5754

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना-चतुर्थ वर्ष 2025-26 बैच-प्रथम के अन्तर्गत स्वीकृत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्य** के निम्नलिखित कार्यों मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 26 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार /केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग /डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन. निम्नानुसार है।

1. PWD2526WLOB23502	2. PWD2526WLOB23504	3. PWD2526WLOB23505
4. PWD2526WLOB23509	5. PWD2526WLOB23510	6. PWD2526WLOB23511
7. PWD2526WLOB23512	8. PWD2526WLOB23513	9. PWD2526WLOB23514
10. PWD2526WLOB23516	11. PWD2526WSOB23517	12. PWD2526WLOB23518
13. PWD2526WLOB23519	14. PWD2526WLOB23520	15. PWD2526WLOB23521
16. PWD2526WLOB23522	17. PWD2526WLOB23524	18. PWD2526WLOB23526
19. PWD2526WLOB23528	20. PWD2526WLOB23530	21. PWD2526WLOB23533
22. PWD2526WLOB22534	23. PWD2526WLOB23535	24. PWD2526WLOB23536
25. PWD2526WLOB23537	26. PWD2526WLOB23538	

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

ई-साईन
(एन.सी. शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर

DIPR/C/3943/2026

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS CENTRE, U.P.

(An autonomous organization of Govt. of U.P.)
Sector -G, Jankipuram, Kursi Road, Lucknow-226 021 (U.P.)
Ph : 2730451, 2730815, 2730824, Fax : 2730585 Email : director@rsacup.org.in

Advertisement No.: 1/2025/3824 **Dated: 01.03.2026**

REQUIRES SCIENTIST/ENGINEER/ACADEMICIAN FOR THE
POST OF DIRECTOR

Remote Sensing Applications Centre, U.P. is an autonomous organization of The Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of U.P. is registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860. The Centre is engaged in carrying out R & D and operational projects related to Application of Geo-spatial techniques (Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS, LiDAR, Bathymetric etc.) in the study of entire gamut of natural resources.

The Post requires overall scientific guidance and supervision, in addition to Administrative and Financial management of different scientific and other activities of the Centre. Applications are invited for appointment to the Post of Director from Scientists/ Engineers/ Academicians of repute with the following essential and desirable qualifications and experience:

Essential Qualification and Experience :	First Class Master Degree in any discipline of Natural Sciences or Engineering with minimum 20 years of working experience in applications of Remote Sensing & GIS in related fields. OR Doctorate Degree in any discipline of Natural Sciences or Engineering with minimum 10 years of working experience especially in the domain of Remote Sensing & GIS application in related field. The above-mentioned essential experience in both the cases includes minimum 06 years' experience of higher level of administrative responsibilities, managerial experience in Project Planning, Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation.
Desirable :	Candidate should be presently working at the level of Scientist-SB (Pay Band-4,/Pay Scale Rs. 37400/- 67000/- Grade Pay Rs. 8900/-) or equivalent.
General Conditions :	Age limit 48-57 Years as on date of advertisement and the retirement age will be 60 years with the condition that the tenure to the director shall be from a minimum of 03 years, which may be further extended for 2 years after recommendation of Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of U.P. The post will be governed by Rules of Association and General Services Rules 1986 of Remote Sensing Applications Centre as well as direction issued by the State Government in this regard from time to time. The selected candidate will be placed in Level-14 (as per 7 Pay commission)

The applications under registered post with date of birth and full details of qualifications, experience, achievements, present post held, responsibility & scale of pay with self-attested copies, relevant Documents, list of publications with reprints, should reach: **The Director, Remote Sensing Application Centre, U.P., Sector-G Jankipuram, Kursi Road, Lucknow-226021 on or before 15.04.2026** Candidates called for interview will be entitled to Economy class Air Fair/2nd AC Rail Fair subject to the submission of documentary proof. Candidates already employed must submit their applications through proper channel. The competent authority of The Remote Sensing Applications Centre U.P., Lucknow reserves the right to reject/ cancel any or all the applications without assigning any reason. **DIRECTOR**

32001/154/2526

Government Of Odisha
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ

Mail id. cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 03/25-26 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1	Name of Work	Canal Works
2	Total No of Projects	2 Nos.
3	Estimated Cost of individual works	Varies from Rs.2368.03 Lakh to Rs.4394.69 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T.)
4	Bid Security	Details can be seen in the DTCN of bid documents of the respected works
5	Period of Completion	24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Months
6	Class of Contractor	"Special" Class and "Super" Class
7	Date & Time of sale & receipt of bid documents	Dt. 06.03.2026 at 10.00 AM to Dt. 31.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM
8	Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference	18.03.2026 at 11:30 A.M.
9	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.02.04.2026 at 11:00 AM in O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
10	Name & Address of the O.I.T	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**. Corrigendum if any will be published in e-Procurement site.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin
Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

OIPR-32001/32429/1/25-26/0002

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता (स्तर-1)
ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग,
तपोवन मार्ग, रायपुर रोड देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड ।

e-mail: hod.res.uk@gmail.com Website: www.res.uk.gov.in Phone No. 0135-2976444

पत्रांक: 2548/[illegible]/2025-26 दिनांक: 28/02/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

1-कार्य का नाम:- जनपद पौड़ी के अंतर्गत नेशनल कैडेट कोर (एनसीसी) अकादमी का निर्माण कार्य।
2-अनुमानित लागत (जीएसटी सहित) - रु 4513.06 लाख
3-कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि - 18 माह
4-ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा उपलब्ध कराने की तिथि एवं समय :- 02.03.2026 12.00 Hrs
5-ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 29.03.2026 18.00 Hrs
6-तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 30.03.2026 12.00 Hrs
7-निविदा आमंत्रण करने वाले अधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- ई0 विभूतिविश्वामित्र रावत, मुख्य अभियन्ता (स्तर-1) ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग, तपोवन मार्ग, रायपुर रोड, देहरादून।
8-निविदा की प्रि-बिड बैठक का दिनांक व स्थान:- दिनांक 14.03.2026 समय 15.00 Hrs कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता (स्तर-1) ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग, तपोवन मार्ग, रायपुर रोड, देहरादून। इच्छुक निविदादाता meet.google.com/twm-hgjv-yqi के माध्यम से प्रतिभाग कर सकते है।
9- अधिक जानकारी अन्य संशोधन / शुद्धि पत्र एवं निस्तारण आदि के लिये वेबसाईट https://uktenders.gov.in पर login करते रहें।

ई0 विभूतिविश्वामित्र रावत
प्र0 मुख्य अभियन्ता (स्तर-1)
ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग,
संभाग द्वितीय जोधपुर (मुख्यालय बाड़मेर)

क्रमांक:-2665 दिनांक:-18.02.2026

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या: 12 वर्ष 2025-2026

NIB No. [illegible]

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना-चतुर्थ वर्ष 2025-26 बैच-प्रथम के अन्तर्गत स्वीकृत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यों** [illegible] ई-प्रोक्यूमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। [illegible]

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इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

ई-हस्ताक्षर
([illegible])
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय, जोधपुर (मुख्यालय-बाड़मेर)

DIPR/C/3938/2026

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-40
Dated: 23.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Hospete (HPT) Yard: OHE Modification for Defective Yard Layout Correction in Hospete (HPT) Yard.	Rs. 23,97,522.38/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 17.03.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi

PUB/937/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

Open E-Tender

The following **E -Tenders** can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/ Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ-II, 9163340724. Office Address: **Office of The PCMM / CLW/Chittaranjan. [A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 20/02/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 70261255. Brief Description of Item:** Modified COW Catcher Assly. For WAG-9HC Loco To Specification No. CLW/MS/3/107 ALT-8. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 144.00 set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹167340.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 16/03/2026 at 11:00 AM. [B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 23/02/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 73263713A. Brief Description of Item:** High Tensile Transition C.B. Coupler (Bottom operated) without Draft Gear as per RDSO Drawing No.- SKDL-3430, Alt.-8 or latest except item nos. 18 to 20 & 24 to 47 (i) RDSO Specn No. 56-B D-07 M.A No. 2 or latest. (ii) RDSO Drawing No.- SKDL-3430, Alt.-8 or latest. Part Drg. No. SK-62724 Alt-28 or latest, SK.DL-2496 Alt6 or latest, SK-69508 Alt-4 or latest, SKDL2494 Alt-17 or latest and SKDL-2495 Alt-12 or latest. [Warranty Period: 48 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 60.00 Numbers. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹132200.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 16/03/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

PR7/303 **PCMM/CLW/CRJ.**

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कार्यालय,
महाप्रबन्धक, पी0आई0यू0-03,
यू0पी0डी0सी0सी0एल0 देहरादून।
ई-निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना 06/पी0आई0यू0-3/2025-26, दिनांक 28.02.2026

महाप्रबन्धक, पी0आई0यू0-3, यू0पी0डी0सी0लि0, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्यों के निर्माण हेतु टू-बिड प्रणाली के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा हेतु वही ठेकेदार मान्य होंगे जो केन्द्र सरकार/राज्य सरकार या केन्द्रशासित प्रदेशों में कार्य की लागत की समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत होंगे।

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर धनराशि लाख रु0 में	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु0)	निविदा की वैधता अवधि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	**Ashtha path Beautification (Rishikesh)**	रु0 52.53 लाख	5000.00+ 900.00 (18% GST)	90 दिवस	24 माह

निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित पूर्ण जानकारी हेतु उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की वेबसाईट www.uktenders.gov.in पर लॉगऑन करें।

(मनोज कुमार सिंह)
महाप्रबन्धक, पी0आई0यू0-3
यू0पी0डी0सी0सी0लि0, देहरादून

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

Booking & Advertisement Branch
E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh is going to book Commercial Grounds of Exhibition Ground, Sector 34, Circus Ground, Sector 17 and CHB Ground, Manimajra, Chandigarh for the period of 10 months or up to 31st December, 2026 which ever is earlier through e-auction as per the following schedule :-

Date of Publication	Submission Start Date	Submission End Date	Approval Start Date	Approval End Date	Auction Start Date	Auction End Date
01.03.26	02.03.26	04.03.26	08.03.26	11.03.26	12.03.26	13.03.26
04.00 PM	09.00 AM	04.00 PM	10.00 AM	5.00 PM	11.00 AM	04.00 PM

The detailed terms & conditions of e-auction can be downloaded from the website : **https://eauction/gov.in** and **https://mcchandigarh.gov.in**

Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COIR BOARD

Engagement of Project / Technical Staff on Contract Basis

Coir Board, a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India invites applications from eligible candidates for the engagement of Project/Technical Staff (7 positions.) on a purely contractual basis for its two research institutes: Central Coir Research Institute, Alappuzha, Kerala and Central Institute of Coir Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Applicants may visit Coir Board's website **(www.coirboard.gov.in)** for the detailed advertisement. Applications complete in all respect should be submitted via online on or before 5.30 pm on 22nd March, 2026.

Scan QR code for website

17.02.2026

cbc25131/12/0048/2526

S/d
SECRETARY, Coir Board

Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, VVWW Campus, K.R.S Main Road, Yadavagiri, Mysuru-570020.

TN No: MCC/EE-ELE/TN-20/2025-26 Date: 25.02.2026

Tender Notification-20
Through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal Only

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal for the works under General Fund: 2025-26 grant as required from Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Mysuru City Corporation. Details are as follows:

Sl. No	Description	Total Works	Tender Amount (INR)	Date of Publishing on KPP-Portal	Last Date for Submission of Bids	Technical/Financial Bid opening Date
1	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	02	9.84	25.02.2026	05.03.2026	06.03.2026
		02	50.00			

Note: Any further changes/notifications will be published only through Karnataka Public-Procurement portal only and will not release any paper notification.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical),
Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYSORE/1764/SSC/2025-26

US-Israel strikes tip Middle East into a new crisis

BY INVITATION

HARSH V PANT

The US and Israel finally decided to cross a Rubicon that had been looming over the Middle Eastern strategic landscape for some time. Their coordinated strikes on Iranian targets were not merely tactical operations; they were a political statement about deterrence and credibility while underlining the limits of diplomacy in a polarised geostrategic landscape. Israel's 'Roaring Lion' and US's 'Epic Fury' were crafted as instruments of coercive diplomacy by other means, aimed at degrading Iran's nuclear and missile infrastructure while reasserting a fraying regional order. With unconfirmed reports that the Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, may have succumbed, both sides have entered a point of no return.

US President Trump framed the strikes as "major combat operations" against "imminent threats," underscoring US's shift toward muscular unilateralism. Israeli PM Netanyahu situated the assault within its long-standing doctrine of preemption, arguing that an Iran on the cusp of nuclear capability constitutes an existential challenge that cannot be managed, only neutralised. The convergence of American maximalism and Israeli insecurity has produced a moment of decisive escalation. At the heart of the crisis lies Iran's nuclear trajectory. The June 2025 US-Israeli strikes had damaged facilities but failed to eliminate Tehran's capacity to regenerate. Reports of covert rebuilding and IAEA's concerns reinforced suspicions that Iran was edging closer to weapons-grade enrichment. The US's insistence on zero enrichment and the dismantling of facilities proved incompatible with Tehran's red lines. The collapse of the Geneva talks was less a diplomatic accident and more the culmination of irreconcilable strategic aims.

The nuclear dimension, even though central, is not the only variable here. Israel's security calculus has been shaped by Iran's ballistic missile arsenal and its network of proxies, even if Hezbollah and Hamas have been degraded and Syria's Assad regime has fallen. For Israel, the prospect of Iran crossing the nuclear threshold—even symbolically—would irreversibly alter the regional balance. Months of joint planning with the US reflect a shared assessment: deterrence, once eroded, must be restored dramatically.

Trump's 'maximum pressure 2.0' policy has provided the broader scaffolding. After setbacks in 2024 that appeared to embolden Iran's so-called 'Axis of Resistance', the US has sought to reclaim regional initiative. Military deployments since Jan 2026 were both signalling devices and operational preparation. The strikes thus blended preventive logic with alliance management and reputational stakes.

Since Dec 2025, widespread protests fuelled by economic collapse and harsh repression have exposed fissures within Iran. Trump's rhetoric urging Iranians to "take over your govt" has injected an overt regime-change undertone. While external force rarely produces orderly political transitions, the perception of regime vulnerability and the seduction of the idea of regime change may have narrowed the window for action in the US and Israel.

SHOCK WAVES: Widespread protests fuelled by economic collapse and harsh repression have exposed fissures in Iran

The regional implications are immediate and combustible. Iranian retaliation against Israel and US bases in the region signals that escalation is no longer hypothetical but unfolding. Proxies in Iraq and Yemen have hinted at sustained attrition, even if their capabilities are diminished. The Strait of Hormuz, the world's most sensitive energy choke point, now sits at the epicentre of strategic anxiety. Gulf states hosting US assets face the unenviable task of balancing deterrence with de-escalation.

The humanitarian and political consequences could be profound. Civilian casualties, infrastructure damage and displacement risk deepening societal fractures. A weakened clerical establishment might confront intensified internal unrest, potentially reshaping alignments—consolidating Israel's ties with Sunni Arab states while fragmenting Shia influence. Saudi has expressed full solidarity with those targeted nations and pledged to provide "all its resources" and "all its capabilities" to support them in any measures they take even while making clear that it would not allow its airspace or territory to be used for strikes on Iran. But a protracted conflict could just as easily destabilise Lebanon and Iraq, compounding an already fragile regional order.

Globally, the shockwaves are evident in energy markets. Oil price volatility threatens to exacerbate inflationary pressures and slow growth in Europe and Asia. Russia and China, both invested in Iran strategically and economically, have condemned the strikes, but have limited means to assert themselves. The episode also tests the resilience of nuclear non-proliferation norms. Equally significant is what this moment reveals about American statecraft. The willingness to privilege force over multilateral and diplomatic consensus reflects a recalibration of US grand strategy. Legal debates over pre-emption and sovereignty will persist, but the message is unmistakable: the US is now prepared to act decisively when it judges the balance tilting away. The latest conflagration is the product of accumulated mistrust, failed diplomacy and strategic impatience. Israel and the US may succeed in degrading Iran's capabilities and reasserting deterrence. But retaliation already underway underscores the inherent volatility of coercive gambits in a crowded geopolitical theatre. The Middle East finds itself, once again, at a deeply precarious strategic crossroads and the international community, such as it exists, confronts a familiar yet formidable challenge: how to prevent a calculated strike from cascading into a conflagration whose costs—human, economic and strategic—would far exceed the gains sought. ■

Pant is vice president, Observer Research Foundation

Don't use Silicon Valley as a template. India should rethink what AI should be

***Karen Hao,** author of the New York Times bestseller, 'Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI', has spent years looking at the human and environmental costs behind Silicon Valley's rush to build AI infrastructure and models. She was in India recently for Synapse, a society and technology conference, where she spoke to **Sujit John** on the "imperial" nature of Big Tech, and why India should think small and affordable*

■ India is beginning to see this big build-out of AI data centre infrastructure. How do you see it?

What I have seen in a lot of countries that have this catch-up mentality is that they're looking at the Silicon Valley model and saying we need to catch up to that. And that is what I critique as imperial. You're using the idea that's coming from the empire and simply taking that as the template. Instead, you could just fundamentally rethink what AI should be for this country. I went to a lot of sessions during the AI Summit which were about open-source models, about smaller models and there were people who brought up these really good points that for AI to work at scale in India, it cannot be large language models (LLMs) because it needs to run very cheaply, it needs to be able to run without internet on someone's mobile device so that a farmer can detect diseases in their crops, or doctors in rural areas can actually use this type of technology. If India thought from that perspective, to catch up in the AI era could look completely different. India already has all the ingredients it needs: a fantastic base of talent, infrastructure capabilities for smaller models, and high-quality data for training these application-specific AI technologies. Then you wouldn't need these huge partnerships (with American companies) anymore and you wouldn't be giving away your sovereignty.

FOR THE RECORD

Photo Credit: Penguin

■ Are there major countries that are taking this small-model approach? What is China doing?

China's doing a lot of smaller models because they're very compute-constrained. Also, China has a very different approach to AI development than Silicon Valley which has this mentality of just pushing technical advancement for technical advancement's sake. Now, Silicon Valley runs into this issue where they don't have product-market fit. So, they're trying to find ways to convince people to buy their products. During the AI Summit, Brad Smith (Microsoft president) gave a keynote and used this very specific turn of phrase: Govts need to help us generate demand for our technologies. He actually said out loud what is usually unspoken. Chinese companies have a different mentality. They can't afford to build technologies that no one's going to use because VCs are not willing to wait years and years for their money to be returned. So, they're thinking, what are the applications that meet our users where they are? And often those applications do not require the scale that is being built by the American companies.

■ But they are also building large language models...

They're also building it but with significantly less computational cost. That's what we saw with DeepSeek, where it has the same capabilities but is significantly cheaper to build and to run. That's also why there are a lot of companies in the US now — not model developers but consumers of AI technologies — that are using Chinese models instead of models from Silicon Valley because they're the same quality, or sometimes better, and cheaper. I'm not saying everyone should be using Chinese models, but this is an example of how a country and the companies rethought from the bottom-up about what are the models that are going to work for us. I think India has the potential to do the same thing.

■ In India, data annotation work that's often done by very poor people, mostly women, tends to be presented as work that enables them to improve their conditions of life. But you have called it a form of "modern-day imperialism".

What I show in my book is time and time again, when the tech industry's appetite for resources accelerates exponentially, they always go to the poorest communities. Whether it's human resources — like the labour that they need to train their models — or physical resources like minerals or energy. India is a huge base for the labour that is supplied to these companies, and the way that they treat that labour is horrible. There was an investigation that just came out in The Guardian about women from India's poorest neighbourhoods being roped into doing content moderation for pornography, for child sexual abuse material. When the women protested and said, this is affecting my well-being, my family's well-being, breaking down my communities, they're being told, you were told your job is data annotation, and this is data annotation.

■ What's the answer to such content moderation issues?

The reason why there is all this harmful content that needs to be filtered out is because these companies are training their models on the entire internet. If you were talking about very application-specific technologies like helping a farmer detect disease in their crops, why are you then training on pornography? That's not going to help the crops. These companies take the opposite approach, they just hoover up everything, and then expect people in the poorest neighbourhoods to be human shields for all of their users.

Can J&K's historic Ranji Trophy triumph heal old wounds in the Valley?

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Jammu and Kashmir have become India's cricketing champs by thrashing favourites Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy finals. This is a fantastic, heart-warming Cinderella tale in a small state long viewed as a no-hoper in cricket. Experts say nobody watches Ranji Trophy cricket because it is not exciting and lacks top stars. But I followed the Ranji semi-final and the final avidly and, by the end, was cheering myself hoarse for J&K. There must have been many more viewers like me.

Before this season, J&K had played 334 Ranji Trophy matches over 67 years and won only 45 of them. It took 44 years to win its first match, against the Services in 1982-83. But this year, it steadily eliminated one tough opponent after another—Rajasthan, Hyderabad, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and finally seven-time champions Karnataka.

Karnataka had five Test players—KL Rahul, Mayank Agrawal, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair, and Prasidh Krishna. J&K had none. A year ago, you would have been hard-pressed to name a single member of its team. Yet it won in commanding style.

This is more than a cricketing story. Out of the blue, it provides a non-political avenue to help alienated Kashmiris feel part of the Indian mainstream. They suddenly find themselves kings of Ranji cricket, admired and applauded across India in a manner no one could have imagined a year ago. May Kashmiri youngsters once seduced by terrorism trade Kalashnikovs for cricket bats!

Kashmir's notorious cricket audiences have been known to cheer for Pakistan against India. This has drawn accusations of anti-nationalism and taunts asking them to leave India and go to Pakistan.

Kashmiris say this is a grave misunderstanding of their sentiments. My former Economic Times colleague Najeeb Mubarki says that cricketing crowds in the state have no particular love for Pakistan, but they want to express their alienation from India and outrage at violations of human rights in the state. And so, said Najeeb, Kashmir's cricketing crowds will cheer for any opponent of India — be it Pakistan, or anyone else.

In the current World Cup T-20 super-eights, South Africa thrashed India last week. News reports from Srinagar spoke of Kashmiris cheering for South Africa while watching the match on TV. With draconian laws now in place against anything that can be interpreted as anti-national, youngsters are cautious today about celebrations in public. But laws cannot transform what they feel or whom they cheer.

Can the mere winning of a cricket trophy change hearts and minds? No, that is a stretch. But all conventional means of ending Kashmiri alienation — govt jobs, subsidies for industries, encouraging tourism — have not achieved much. Cricket has promise because Kashmir, like the rest of India, is cricket crazy. Team sports are an excellent way to bind together people from different communities. Football is the biggest spectator sport globally, and Manchester United has millions of fans even in China and Africa. Cricket is not too far behind.

Once you play for a cricket team, all your teammates become vital partners, regardless of religion or region. This is true, at least in part, for cricketing audiences too, which in India means almost everyone. Once, cheering against India was a Kashmiri way of expressing alienation. But now that J&K is Ranji champion, cricket has the potential to tackle that alienation and bind Kashmiris and other Indians closer together. The state is now central to Indian cricket, not an outlier.

Its Ranji victory was a team effort of six Hindus and five Muslims. It scored a mammoth 584 runs in its first innings, with Shubham Pundir (ever heard of him?) scoring a century and five others scoring half-centuries. But the J&K star was unquestionably fast bowler Auqib Nabi, nicknamed the 'Baramulla Express'. At the age of 29, he is a late developer. But his bowling in the last two Ranji seasons has been so phenomenal that it seems a crime that he is not in the Indian Test team.

Nabi took 44 wickets last season and 60 this season, the most by any bowler. Despite having catches dropped he snagged 5 for 54 in Karnataka's first innings, including the cream of its batting stars. He had earlier spearheaded J&K's victory in the quarter final against MP (12 wickets for 110 runs) and semi-final against Bengal (9 wickets for 123 runs). His bowling average this season has been an astonishing 12.7 runs per wicket —anything below 20 is outstanding.

Very few bowlers can boast of a hat-trick—three wickets in three successive balls. But in the Duleep Trophy six months ago, Nabi (playing for North Zone) got four wickets in four successive balls, a feat so extraordinary that cricket has yet to invent a word for it. Hurrah for Kashmir! Hurrah for India! ■

Lutyens: Don't judge an architect by his politics but his buildings

BY INVITATION

GAUTAM BHATIA

One of the serious cultural shortcomings with us argumentative Indians is that we are often quick to dismiss an issue without considering its full scope. The current debate on Indianising Indian history lies at the heart of the recent removal of Sir Edwin Lutyens' statue at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Lutyens, along with Herbert Baker, was responsible for the layout of Delhi and designed most of the monumental public structures that lie in and around India Gate. In architectural terms, scale of construction and timelines, this was no small feat. By contrast, his sculpture, a small, insignificant bust in bronze, stood on a pedestal in the central courtyard of Rashtrapati Bhavan — the only artistic tribute to an architect recognised in his own country as the 'greatest of the early 20th century'.

This Lutyens' bust has now been replaced by a statue of C Rajagopalachari, India's first governor general. No one would dispute Rajaji's pivotal role in the country's political life and the need for its visible public recognition. But the removal of Lutyens does stir up a debate on how best to deal with the remains of a 200-year-old colonial legacy.

CAST OUT: Prez Murmu unveils Rajaji's bust amid a broader debate on how a nation should reckon with its colonial past

Should India Gate be brought down because it commemorates Indian soldiers who fought for the Empire? Should the President of a free India reside in a building that was once the Viceroy's house? Which indeed is the better view, erasure or the more moderate one of co-existence?

For the past decade, the world seems to have embarked on a crusade to eradicate historical figures now perceived as evil. Confederate heroes in the US have been kicked off public pedestals. The Smithsonian in Washington has been called upon to remove historical exhibits of slavery. In England, statues with racist links have been dumped into rivers. In our own country, names of streets, squares and whole buildings have been changed to reflect a past that is best forgotten. Or changed to suit the present.

Colonialism's legacy was too complex and widespread in itself; it included the rail network, the bureaucracy, communications and cultural institutions, among other things. Lutyens was but a minor player in the scheme. Yet for all his narrow-mindedness and racism, his disparaging view of India and Indians, he was a great architect, and his contributions cannot be easily dismissed.

The past century has, in fact, brought three notably renowned foreign architects to India. Lutyens, Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn came at different times, but each infused the architecture of that period with new ideas and original thinking. Their private politics aside, their contribution was far-reaching and influential.

Lutyens' association with India spanned over 20 years, in which time he made several trips to discuss his designs with the Viceroy, select construction materials, visit several historical monuments from which he drew inspiration and supervise the construction of his own finely detailed edifices. Though he referred to Indian architecture as 'piffle', he adopted it wholeheartedly into his own compositions, creating a hybrid monumentality that was more Indian than Western.

Whatever his political views and contemptible racism, Lutyens was first and foremost an architect. His work and contribution to India cannot be judged in purely political and ideological terms, the way Aurangzeb's or Queen Victoria's can. Doubtless his architecture played an important role in the cultural history of India, but he was not a Viceroy, as his grandson Matt Ridley pointed out recently. An architect of formidable ability and imagination, his place in our midst must be viewed from the perspective of world architectural history, not from the history of India. When all is said and done, the monumental structures he built will continue to be retained with loving care and celebrated as jewels of India's capital.

If there is a fine line between architecture and history and politics, it disappears completely when one is used to support or embellish the other. Certainly, Lutyens was an employee of the British govt and owed his allegiance to it. But his professional instincts were wholly architectural, and it is for those that he is remembered in Delhi, much in the way Corbusier is remembered for Chandigarh. To remove his statue from Rashtrapati Bhavan may be a minor political act, but his imprint remains firmly engraved in the very same building. Only his symbolic presence has been removed. Perhaps, if he had chosen to settle down in a part of Delhi named after him, we might have been kinder to him. ■

Bhatia is a Delhi-based architect

WORD DROP

SOLOPRENEUR

For a long time, being their own boss was enough motivation for entrepreneurs to choose paths less taken. But now a few of them are opting not just to be their own boss, but also the CEO, marketer, and customer support team — all rolled into one 'solopreneur'. Unlike traditional entrepreneurs who chase venture capital and growth, solopreneurs pursue autonomy. Think content creators, indie app developers, consultants, and

Image: AI

independent newsletter writers on Substack. Technology has made this easier — platforms handle marketing, distribution, and logistics, while AI tools help draft design creatives, and schedule automated social media posts. In return, solopreneurs get flexible hours and creative control.

INBOX

Time for a rejig

Apropos of 'AI is not...' (ATM, Feb 15), with increasing AI use, we have to rejig our education system to become innovators. A mere degree will not help. There will be a wide gamut of new jobs that will emerge and traditional schools of thought are bound to become obsolete.

—Amit Tiwari, Amethi

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

20 yrs after Prakash Singh verdict, tussle over autonomy continues

HARD TAKE

ROBIN DAVID

Former Uttar Pradesh DGP Prakash Singh is a quiet, unassuming man who still believes that once a police officer puts on his uniform, he does not belong to any religion, caste or ideology. He is answerable to only two forces — the dispassionate values instilled by his training and the Constitution.

It was this conviction that made him approach the Supreme Court seeking police reforms that would free the force from the grip of fickle political masters. After all, a police officer can reject illegal and unconstitutional orders only if his professional career is not held hostage by politicians demanding unquestioning loyalty.

The landmark Prakash Singh verdict of Sept 2006 not only attempted to snip the umbilical cord between the police and the executive but also asked for more accountability from the force itself. Later this year, the verdict will complete exactly two decades, ample time for any reform to find its feet, even in a complex country like India.

Sadly, however, we have used the time to water down key aspects of the verdict. This is reflected in the fact that the same Supreme Court is now hearing a case on the ad hoc manner in which states have been appointing 'acting' director generals of police (DGPs) so that they can have more pliable officers heading the force. This conveniently bypasses the procedure mandated in the guidelines of sending names to UPSC and picking an officer from the three names it suggests.

While hearing an appeal by UPSC on Feb 5, expressing concern over delays on the part of several states in sending proposals for the appointment of DGPs, Chief Justice Surya Kant said contempt cases could be filed against states for not following set norms. UPSC was directed to make its recommendation for Telangana DGP at the earliest. Then, the Tamil Nadu govt was set a deadline for appointment of a DGP, and on Feb 18, Punjab was told to send a list of eligible IPS officers for DGP appointment within 10 days.

But is it prudent to look at only one aspect of the verdict when some of its defining elements have been distorted beyond recognition? Even if the UPSC does arm-twist states into appointing more meritorious and senior officers as per procedure, will police officers be able to stand in front of a chief minister or Union minister and refuse an illegal order? There will, of course, be some upright officers who won't bow to demands. But for the most part, the parrot will stay caged and be forced to trill in his master's voice.

Officers, both retired and serving, will tell you that Thomas Babington Macaulay helped the British under colonial India draft the Indian Penal Code in 1860 to put in place a legal system to control Indians and stamp out any rebellion. And, 166 years later, much of that system remains intact even if the names have changed.

NORMS FLOUTED: SC is hearing a case on ad hoc DGP appointments. The Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab govt is the latest to be given a deadline to send candidate list

The problem, as Prakash Singh himself will tell you, lies with the state security commissions. Envisaged in the 2006 verdict, they were supposed to lay down broad policy guidelines and have independent oversight over the functioning of the police and matters of law and order. They were to be comprised of both govt officers and members of civil society with unimpeachable standing so that they would push back on political pressure. States reluctantly formed this key body but simultaneously defanged it by appointing political loyalists who act like rubber stamps. Also, in the verdict, the recommendations of the commission were binding on states. But given that law and order is a state subject in the Constitution, state govts conveniently turned these into recommendations. As a result, the commission can make the most caustic remarks if it wishes to, but govts can ignore them at will even if it affects the autonomy of the force.

Despite these distortions, Prakash Singh still believes that some independent authority over the appointment of the head of the police force is needed and that it creates the possibility of officers with higher integrity heading the forces. It is important to remember that the current battle in the SC is being fought at a time when police officers in opposition-ruled states are increasingly caught in power struggles between the centre and states. In the past couple of months, police in West Bengal and Jharkhand have booked cases against ED, a central agency. Tamil Nadu too had booked a case in the past. If SC can force states into listening to the UPSC while appointing DGPs, it can perhaps also ensure that the officers get more autonomy as envisaged in the 2006 verdict. A truly democratic country deserves a police force that is as accountable to the law and people as it is to those in office. ■

CHINA'S RECIPE, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

Abhijit Banerjee

TASTING ECONOMICS

China loomed large in the Kolkata of my childhood. The walls screamed 'Naxalbari Lal Salaam', but also 'Chiner Chairman Amader Chairman' (China's chairman is our chairman), volunteering Mr Mao to a job I suspect he very much did not want, governing 70 million querulous Bengalis.

For the idealist leftists of Bengal, China represented the answer to their primary conundrum: why should the revolution be led by unionised factory workers in a country where the truly oppressed were the rural landless and small peasants who lived their half-starved life under the thumb of the landlords and other elites? In China, they saw the possibility of a peasant-led revolution.

I learnt all this years later. At the time, the Naxalites were just people who fought in the streets and mysteriously managed to paint vivid wall posters in the middle of the night. I recall noticing new ones on my walk to school. I also remember the day — and it probably happened more than once — we were playing in the street when suddenly a group of young men swept through, saying "ladai hobe (there will be a fight)", asking everyone to bolt their doors and windows. We little ones were grabbed by unknown arms and placed behind one of those closed doors and told to wait till there was an all clear.

I didn't know the kind lady who hosted us, but she seemed to know all of us neighborhood kids. We sat on the ground cross-legged and were given bowls of *payesh* (kheer). One of my playmates was inconsolable and kept bawling, but I thought it was rather fun; the *payesh*, I noticed, was very different from the way they made it at home, thicker, creamier and less caramelised, but also very nice. I don't know quite how long it lasted; there were bombs and much yelling and I think the police and the ambulance both came, but by the time we were let out there was only a slight smell of (what I know now to be) ammonia in the air, from the fertilizer that went into making the bombs.

I guess I should have been more touched by the solicitude of the young men — in fact, I learnt later that they would post a person at the entrance to the street to shoo people away and make sure no bystander gets hurt — but the general lean of the population was against them (my parents less, I had noticed) and I was infected by that. In fact, it only got worse: my first real interest in politics was piqued by the Bangladesh war. The liberation made us all nationalists. Indira Gandhi was our hero, and her party was fighting the Naxalites and apparently winning (thanks to an open season for extra-judicial killings, a tradition that seems to continue in parts of India even today, but I didn't know that then). It didn't help that one of my aunt's brothers-in-law, a retired judge, was attacked by a group of Naxalites (or so I was told) on his morning walk but managed to fight them off with his walking stick and survived the knifing, which made his would-be assassins look both nasty and inept.

This was when China disappeared a bit from my radar — especially since in my mental map, Chinese food, which I love and loved, had little to do with the motherland — only to reappear after Mao's death in 1976 as a troubled and troubling place. The revolution, it seemed, was consuming its children.

Xi might be all-powerful, but even he has to be mindful of the implicit social contract. And when people feel that they are being cheated, they protest and the state takes notice

Madame Mao, the fourth wife of Mao Zedong, was on trial for sedition and some capitalist roaders were sneaking their ways back into power, according to my Maoist friends, who were far more knowledgeable and sophisticated about such things than I ever would be.

The rest is well-known. One of those much-vilified capitalist roaders, Deng Xiaoping, launched the experiments with free markets that transformed China from an economic recluse to the world's most feared economic power. Even President Trump, intoxicated with his sense of unlimited US power, quickly decided that discretion is the better part of valor, once the Chinese showed him the cards they intend to play if he continued his trade war.

Illustration by **Cheyenne Olivier (France)**

Formally, China remains a communist country though it fools no one, least of all those who had tied their dreams to that particular boat. The rest of us Indians look at it with a combination of fascination and fear: they were like us just a few decades ago, and now look at their roads and their buildings, hundreds of shinier Gurgaons where we have just a half-finished handful. When I hear people talking of *viksit Bharat*, these are the echoes that keep coming back. *How did China get there?*

For some, it is all about capitalism — if only we had embraced the market fully.... Others, alas, seem to think we could have done with a dose of authoritarianism— more discipline, more hard work, less opinions, less politics.

There is, of course, truth in these: there is capitalism in China, driving vast and exploding inequalities, much like us. There are extravagant and crass elites, like ours. And there is unbridled authority in the hands of a few (or maybe just one). We live in a world of burgeoning authoritarianism, but what China did to billionaires like Alibaba's Jack Ma or the media tycoon Jimmy Lai, or to the army top brass in recent weeks, fortunately could not (yet) happen in the US or India (though journalists are increasingly being harassed, jailed, and even killed).

But if we stopped at that — capitalist and authoritarian — we would almost entirely miss what is interesting about the Chinese example, and what that says about the diversity of economic strategies that successful growers have adopted. China might be capitalist, but the Chinese state seems to have its finger in every single economic pie of any consequence. According to the World Bank, in 2017, 88% of the total assets of the financial system were held by state-controlled financial institutions. More strikingly, Franklin Allen at Imperial College London and his co-authors find that 85% of the total capital of the firm sector is in firms where some fraction of the equity is held by the state, and this number has been rising.

While we occasionally hear of the Indian government infusing capital into private firms like Vodafone, and even the US under Trump has made a few of these investments, they seem to be one-off strategic choices (saving Vodafone, for example), whereas in China, over a million firms, and most of the bigger ones, have a degree of state involvement. What makes this possible is that it is not just the national govt, but also the provincial and municipal governments, and even other state-owned enterprises, that own parts of private firms usually located near them.

This is related to the second distinct aspect of the Chinese model of development: China may be an authoritarian state, but it is incredibly decentralised. Competition between regions and municipalities is actively encouraged and the metric is economic development. Local leaders who deliver on that are promoted within the national and communist party hierarchy. As a result, at any point of time, there are literally hundreds of local governments selling their brand and trying to attract businesses. Imagine Meerut and Morena trying to best each other, and not just about who makes the best *gajak* (sesame brittle).

To attract businesses, local govts will sometimes invest in them in return for equity. But sometimes, it is the reverse — the city might be keen to get a piece of successful business as a source of additional revenues, and the businesses may well oblige — it never hurts to have friends in city hall. This is one important reason why state ownership is so pervasive.

In addition, the city will be expected to provide the necessary infrastructure, and make sure that there is adequate housing available for the workforce. Unlike us, China has never been comfortable with workers sleeping in the streets or, for that matter, in 100-year-old chawls that look like they could collapse any day.

I once visited an unused worker's hostel in Beijing for an incredible private dinner in honor of my PhD advisor, Eric Maskin. Courses kept coming, and the ingredients kept getting more baroque (I remember seasnails) till at one point I was told, "maybe you don't want to know"! I remember the room as being large and nicely decorated, with many beds under the eaves.

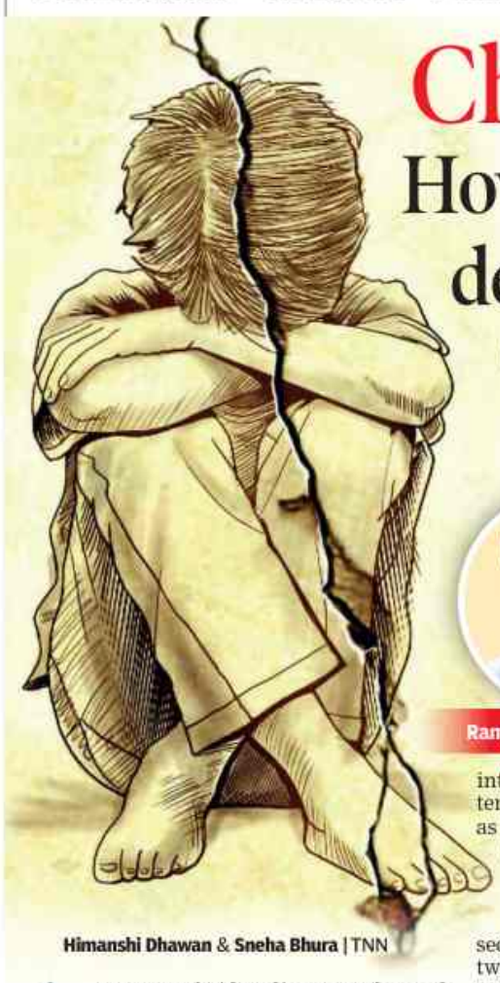
Which connects to a third aspect of the Chinese model: Xi Jinping might be all-powerful, but even he needs to be very mindful of the implicit social contract. Every Chinese citizen is promised a certain standard of living in return for keeping their mouths shut. And when people feel that they are being cheated of that, they protest and the state takes notice. Fifteen years ago, China's cities used to compete with us for the worst air quality in the world. Now they are much better: when people complained that breathing poisoned air was not part of the deal, China's authoritarian government listened and took the kinds of action that we often discuss but never seriously implement. In democratic India, instead, we seem to want to solve that problem by putting the protesters in jail.

This is part of a monthly column by Nobel-winning economist Abhijit Banerjee illustrated by Cheyenne Olivier

RECIPE FOR CHICKEN MAJESTIC

Imagine a Chinese gentleman visiting Hyderabad, being shown around one of the newly-built corporate clusters by a local business partner. He is slightly puzzled by his host's insistence that Hyderabad was now a bit like China (China fifteen years ago, maybe, he thinks) and is then presented with what his host proudly describes as Hyderabadi Chinese food, what the menu calls Chicken Majestic. He tastes the soy sauce in it, but is hard-pressed to see what makes it Chinese, but being polite, keeps his mouth shut. Chicken Majestic is a family favorite to the point where my son wants it for his birthday dinner.

Cut 750 gms of boneless chicken thighs into strips about an inch long and ½ an inch in the other two dimensions. Take 4 tbsp butter milk and dissolve 4 tbsp cornstarch in it; add in 1.5 tbsp ginger garlic paste, 2 tbsp canola or other bland oil, 1 egg, ½ tsp black pepper powder and 1 tsp salt in it. Marinate the chicken in this mixture for at least 30 minutes. Heat ½ cup oil in a large fry pan and shallow fry the chicken in 2 batches. Check that it is fully white inside (not red) by cutting a piece in half. Throw the oil and wipe the pan clean. Heat 2 tbs oil and when hot, throw in ½ tsp each of cumin and fennel seeds, followed by 20 curry leaves, ½ cup finely chopped red onion and 2 slivered green chilies. Fry till the onion is visibly softened (2 minutes or so) and then add 2 tbs ginger garlic paste and 1 tsp turmeric, fry for one minute, reduce heat and mix in 4 tbsp yogurt mixed with 2 tbs water and 1.5 tbsp dark soy sauce. Let it thicken for 3 minutes and then mix in the cooked chicken, stirring and scraping. After 3 minutes, take off heat and squeeze lime juice over it to taste.



Chitrakoot to Belgium:

How a dark web trail exposed a decade of child sexual abuse

UP man not only abused 33 boys but uploaded videos which later circulated in 45 countries, exposing how child sexual abuse material travels across borders

Himanshi Dhawan & Sneha Bhura | TNN

Ram Bhawan, Durgawati have got death penalty

A two-second video clip exposed one of India's most disturbing child sexual abuse cases. The grainy footage showed a bald man adjusting a laptop camera, before revealing a minor boy lying on a bed. When CBI DSP Amit Kumar froze the frame, he knew he had found a critical lead.

The footage originated far from Uttar Pradesh. In Belgium, police arresting a drunk driver recovered a pen drive containing thousands of child sexual abuse videos. Some had Hindi audio. The files were sent to Interpol and then to India's CBI, landing on Kumar's desk. His team, part of a newly-formed unit fighting online child exploitation, spent months tracing IP addresses. They pinpointed a rented home in UP's Karwi in Chitrakoot district, occupied by junior engineer Ram Bhawan and his wife, Durgawati.

When the CBI team navigated the congested, narrow, sewage-filled lanes to raid the house in October 2020, they expected to uncover a few victims. Instead, they found evidence of more than 30 boys, aged three to eighteen, having been abused over a decade. The couple allegedly lured children with cash, gadgets, and games. Over time, the older children had been groomed to continue the abuse in various ways: taking naked pictures of young boys, luring them to Ram Bhawan and abusing them too. Ram Bhawan recorded his abuse for salacious pleasure but also uploaded them to gain access to chat rooms and child porn websites.

Earlier this month, a special court in Banda called the case "rarest of rare" and sentenced the couple to death for the abuse of 33 boys, making pornographic videos and disseminating them on the dark web over a period of 10 years under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act 2012.

The Nondescript Couple

On the surface, Ram Bhawan and Durgawati appeared unremarkable. Bhawan grew up in Naraini village in Banda district. An AIIMS medical assessment later recorded that he reported experiencing sexual abuse and bullying during his school years. Investigators say he told them those experiences shaped his sexual interest in minors. The report noted a persistent attraction to young boys — some as young as three — and an absence of remorse. "Young boys were like trophies for him," recalls Amit Kumar, who has since left the CBI and now practises as an advocate in Delhi.

Bhawan married Durgawati in 2007 and secured a govt job in the irrigation department two years later. Though entitled to govt accommodation, he chose to rent a house in a working-class neighbourhood in Karwi. "He started by getting close to the children of the people who worked around the colony: the sweeper, domestic help, the couple who ironed clothes and daily wagers," Kumar says.

Ram Bhawan confessed to the agency that he would use family functions or events in the village to get close to young boys. He would pretend to play with them, offering them chocolates or the use of his mobile phone. He would then photograph them or try to make a move. Since he had a steady income and opportunity to make money from construction projects, he used cash and gifts like laptops for his victims to soften the parents. He often paid the victim's school fees. These were boys mainly from Chitrakoot, Banda and Hamirpur. "He allayed suspicion by appearing as a childless man fond of young children," Kumar says. Durgawati was his accomplice not just in luring the children but also in the abuse. Her presence also provided a false sense of security to the neighbours.

> We found over 40 empty mobile boxes. He later confessed that he had gifted the phones to older children who had been groomed to take pictures and videos of minor boys. These would be uploaded to porn sites
>
> **Amit Kumar,** FORMER CBI OFFICIAL

House of Horror

Behind the iron gates, the CBI officials found the toolkit behind the crime.

One room was outfitted with a double bed, a large television and a gaming console. Hidden cameras were installed in light fittings to record abuse. Seized devices included 10 mobile phones, two laptops, six pen drives, six memory cards, bottles of oil for lubricant and a digital camera. Investigators documented 34 videos and over 679 photographs, along with Rs 8.2 lakh in cash. "We also found over 40 empty mobile boxes. He later confessed that he had gifted them to older children to take pictures and videos that would be uploaded to his laptop," Kumar says.

Not Just Physical

The Chitrakoot case may have reached its legal conclusion, but investigators report a rise in locally produced child sex abuse material (CSAM) with frequent cross-border circulation. Enforcement is hindered by encryption, legal gaps, limited cyber-forensic capacity and slow courts, says Nitin Pandey, a Lucknow-based cybersecurity expert. "No official metric exists for 'recorded versus physical only', but anecdotal evidence suggests that recording is common. One analysis noted that 'almost all cases of child sexual abuse feature a virtual aspect', reflecting how ubiquitous smartphones and the internet have become," he says, citing NCRB data. In 2022, India recorded 1,171 cases of cyber pornography/ hosting or publishing obscene sexual materials depicting children. That was about 64% of all 1,823 cybercrimes against children recorded that year. Pandey adds, "Geography is no barrier. Offenders in small towns can access the same encrypted tools as anyone else."

In the 2025 global index 'Into the Light' (by Childlight), India was flagged as experiencing significant online-facilitated sexual exploitation, including grooming, coercion into content creation and abuse that may extend offline. Chitra Iyer, co-founder and CEO of Space2Grow (S2G), a social impact consultancy specialising in digital safety and child protection, as the India advisor for the report says, "The Banda judgment described the crime as 'rarest of the rare.' But similar cases already exist, many with online elements that law enforcement may not even come to know. Pocso offences are often treated as purely physical crimes, ignoring that a child may first have been contacted or groomed online. As a result, cyber law provisions — under the IT Act or relevant BNS sections — are rarely invoked once a Pocso charge is filed. While this judgment is significant, it also underscores that the offence became visible primarily through Pocso."

International Footprint

In the Banda case, digital forensics was central to the prosecution. Bhawan allegedly operated through multiple email ids to exchange images and gain entry into closed online groups. Investigators found evidence of accounts on child sexual abuse forums and indications that anonymising software, including TOR, had been used to access the dark web. According to investigators, material from the Chitrakoot case reached users in over 45 countries. In the end, it was the same global digital trail — first flagged through Interpol — that led investigators back to a small house in Chitrakoot.

Not your old superhero saga! Children's cinema grows up

Boong's BAFTA win shows how a new wave of Indian filmmakers is looking beyond capes and cartoons to tell layered stories of young lives

Shruti.Sonal@timesofindia.com

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT: Assamese director Rima Das (left) with the cast of 'Not A Hero' at the Berlin Film Fest

When filmmaker Lakshmipriya Devi stood on the BAFTA stage, greeting the audience with folded hands, it was a modest, locally rooted children's film that had just pulled off something unprecedented. Her debut, 'Boong' — a Manipuri coming-of-age story about a schoolboy searching for his missing father — became the first Indian film ever to not just bag the 'Best Children's and Family Film' award but the first Indian production to take home a BAFTA.

Lakshmipriya's win is also timely, given a new wave of children's films being made by indie filmmakers that are redefining the genre and helping it go beyond superheroes, goofy adventures, and animated flicks. These films retain the wonder and mischief of childhood, but they also tackle patriarchy, gender roles, political conflict and inequalities. In doing so, they are breaking language barriers and drawing international attention.

COMPLEX NARRATIVES

Assamese director Rima Das, whose 'Not A Hero' won a special mention for the best children's film at the Berlin Film Festival earlier this week, says the category is evolving because childhood itself is changing rapidly in the age of technology. "I have been observing how children today are exposed to noise, opinions, competition, and instant rewards," adds Das, whose previous directorial works, 'Village Rockstars' and 'Bulbul Can Sing', also centred on children in rural settings.

These indie wins come at a time when the genre has nearly disappeared from the mainstream. However, global acclaim rarely translates into streaming rights

In 'Not A Hero', Das looks at heroism through the eyes of a city boy who returns to his ancestral village. "Patriarchy often teaches young boys that heroism is about winning a battle or defeating a villain. I wanted to explore something more real — how heroism can also be about surviving a place and responding to life with patience and wisdom," she says.

Gujarati film 'Pravas', which won best children's film at the Dhaka Film Festival in 2024, tells the story of Tino, a village boy whose dream of going for a school picnic to the city hangs in the balance due to financial hardship. Director Vipul Sharma says the idea came from one of his documentary projects. "In remote villages in the state, I'd meet many kids for whom going to Ahmedabad was a distant dream, let alone Mumbai or Delhi," adds Sharma, who grew up watching Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi's films, and decided to turn that idea into fiction centred on a child's longing. Life came full circle for Sharma when 'Pravas' won at Dhaka, and he received the award virtually from Majidi, who also spoke to him briefly on video call.

LOCAL LENS: 'Boong' tackles Manipur's racial tensions

STORIES WITHOUT A SLOT

These indie accolades come at a time when children's films have nearly disappeared from the mainstream in India, and international feats rarely translate into streaming rights. Most OTT platforms have a children's tab, but it is crowded with global franchises from studios like Disney and Marvel. Indie films that push boundaries struggle for distribution and streaming space. Even 'Boong', which streamed on Mubi for some time, is no longer available. Yet, some filmmakers are undeterred.

Abhay Punjabi, who grew up as a fan of children's films like 'Jajantram Mamantaram', 'Makdee', and 'Bhoothnath', says the desire to explore the genre was born after a rebuke. "I was working as a creative producer on a web series about Gandhi based on Ramchandra Guha's books. Although his childhood was covered in detail in the books, we were asked to omit it in the show. That made me wonder why we skip such a crucial part of life in biopics?" he says.

Punjabi then embarked on making 'Pukam Pukai', a Delhi-based film about the coming of age of three kids from different backgrounds, with an orphan from the Salaam Balak Trust in the lead. From religious differences to water conservation and pollution, the film tackled a wide range of issues, earning praise at the Beijing Film Festival. However, Punjabi didn't want it to be just a festival-centric film and decided to add elements of comedy. "We also made five songs which were sung by children.... I was bored of hearing 'Bum Bum Bole' in kids' reels," he laughs.

NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN

Malayalam director Vinesh Vishwanath approached the genre differently with 'Sthanarthi Sreekuttan', a classroom rivalry set against caste discrimination, lopsided education models, and grassroots democracy during a govt school election. However, Vishwanath was keen to push boundaries. "We were looking to make an indie movie with commercial elements like slow-motion scenes, mass dialogues, interval blocks, and extended star cameos," he says.

Das says that even as recognition increases, more complex social films revolving around children — like Majidi's 'Children of Heaven' and American filmmaker Sean Baker's 'The Florida Project' — can be made once producers realise that these films need not be limited to a specific audience. "It's important to remember that even adults were once children," she adds. Vishwanath, on the other hand, says that children's films can be an opportunity to tell multi-layered socio-political stories, without being upfront about the themes or using complex jargon. "Sharing a socio-political idea from a child's perspective always hits harder than from an adult point of view. If we can depict a child's understanding of how flawed the system is, even adults can feel it to a greater degree," he adds.

WHAT IS THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ?

The strait lies between Oman and Iran and links the Gulf north of it with the Gulf of Oman to the south and the Arabian Sea beyond. It is 33-km wide at its narrowest point, with the shipping lane just 3-km wide in either direction

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- About a fifth of the world's total oil consumption passes through the strait
- 20 million barrels of crude, condensate and fuels passed through the strait daily last year
- OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq export most of their crude via the strait, mainly to Asia
- Qatar sends almost all of its LNG through the strait
- US Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, is tasked with protecting commercial shipping in the area

Travel Chaos | Airlines suspended flights across West Asia on Saturday, including to and from the world's busiest travel hub Dubai. Flight maps showed airspace over Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Israel and Bahrain virtually empty

Photos: AP, Reuters, NYT, Getty Images

> *This barbaric act (attack on school) is another black page in the record of countless crimes committed by the aggressors*
>
> —MASOUD PEZESHKIAN | IRAN PREZ

Chaos, Panic Grip Tehran As Strikes Shake City

'Don't Back This Regime But Don't Want Iran To Become Like Iraq'

Dubai: Iranians fled cities in search of safety, and long queues formed at fuel stations as an attack on Iran by the US and Israel spread fear and panic throughout the country. When the strikes began on Saturday morning, explosions rocked Tehran and columns of smoke rose into the sky, shaking the city at the start of the Iranian working week.

Residents reached by phone, described scenes of chaos and alarm as they rushed to collect their children from school or made preparations to leave home for now. "We are going to our hometown in Yazd, Tehran is not safe anymore. They said roads are safe, but I am worried," said Gholamreza, a Tehran shopkeeper and father of two. "I am leaving everything behind in Tehran."

Iran's top security body said it expected attacks to continue on Tehran and some other cities, and urged people to "travel to other cities where possible so that you may remain safe from the harm of these two regimes' acts of aggression". Schools and universities would be closed until further notice. "We are scared, we are terrified. My children are shaking, we have nowhere to go, we will die here," said Minou, a 32-year-old mother of two from the northern city of Tabriz, one of many areas where explosions were reported. "What is going to happen to my children?," she said, crying on phone.

An Iranian from the central city of Yazd said he hoped the attack would topple the clerical establishment that has run the country since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. "Let them bomb," the resident of Yazd said.

Samira Mohebbi, speaking from the northern city of Rasht, disagreed. "I am against this regime, to hell with them. But I don't want my country to be attacked by foreign forces, I don't want my Iran to turn into Iraq," she said, referring to the neighbouring country that suffered years of chaos and bloodshed following the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Security forces blocked roads in the area of Tehran that is home to the offices of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Masoud Pezeshkian and parliament, witnesses said.

Witnesses said people were rushing to buy hard currency. Mohammad Esmaili, 63, speaking from Ilam town, said he would leave the town. "God knows what will happen to us. Pray for us," he said. REUTERS

AP

Iranians rally in support of govt and against the strikes by the US and Israel in Tehran on Saturday

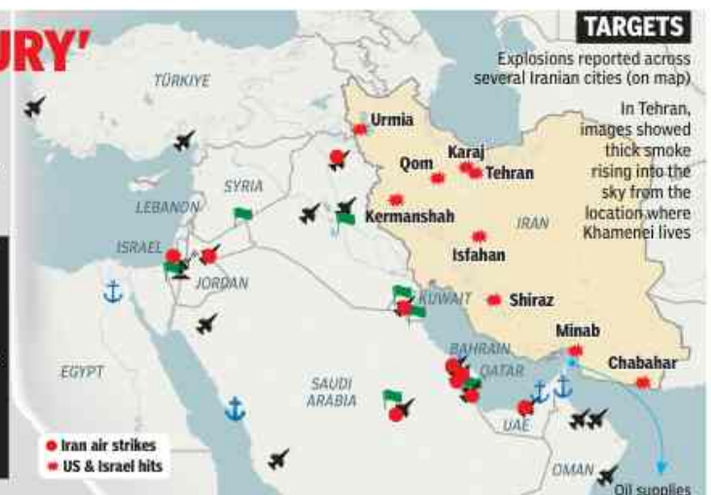
Oil tankers avoid Strait of Hormuz

Oil and gas tankers are increasingly avoiding the Hormuz shipping strait that links the oil-rich Persian Gulf to the open seas after the US and Israel bombed Iran, with a large number of vessels holding outside of the waterway while some already transiting have turned back. Ships reported hearing a radio broadcast purporting to come from the Iranian navy announcing that transit through the strait of Hormuz was banned, and while there hasn't been any official communication from Iran on the status of the waterway, most shipowners are taking a cautious approach. BLOOMBERG

'OPERATION EPIC FURY'

The US, joined by Israel, launches attack on major cities in Iran, as President Trump calls on Iranians to overthrow govt. A central objective of the first joint wave of strikes was to hit as many leaders as possible, according to three Israeli security officials familiar with the operations

Videos show strikes in an area of Tehran that houses the presidential palace, Iran's National Security Council and the ministry of intelligence



HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

Since 2024, the tension between Iran, Israel, and the US has transformed into a series of direct, high-intensity kinetic exchanges

2023 | Palestinian militants led by Hamas, which is backed by Iran, attacks Israel, igniting a deadly war in Gaza. In solidarity with Hamas, other Iranian-backed militias in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen, also attack Israel. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, denies Iran had any role in the Oct. 7 attacks. But Hamas leadership speak broadly about receiving support from regional allies, and documents show the group discussed its plans with Iran

2024 | The End of Proxy War

April 1 | Israel bombs Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing military officials

April 13 | Tehran attacks Israel, first-ever from Iranian soil

July 31 | Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh assassinated in Tehran

Sept 27 | Israel assassinates Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, decapitating Iran's primary 'Axis of Resistance' partner

Oct 1 | Iran retaliates with 180 ballistic missiles targeting Israeli airbases and Tel Aviv

Oct 26 | Israel conducts its largest-ever direct airstrikes on Iran, targeting S-300 air defence batteries and missile production facilities

June 12-24, 2025 | '12-Day War'

- US and Israel launch massive joint air campaign targeting Iran nuclear enrichment sites

June 22 | US launches Operation Midnight Hammer, striking Iran's Fordow Uranium enrichment plant, Natanz nuclear facility and Isfahan nuclear technology centre with 'bunker buster' bombs carried by B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, and Tomahawk missiles fired from a submarine

- Iran retaliates by striking the US Al-Udeid base in Qatar

Dec-Jan | Triggered by collapse of the economy, massive unrest roils Iran. Iran responds with a near-total internet blackout, and authorises the use of military-grade weapons against protesters. US President Trump urges Iranians to 'take over your govt'

Feb 17-26 | 'Last-ditch' nuclear talks between US & Iran fail

HOW HAS IRAN RESPONDED?

Iran fired a barrage of missiles and drones at Israel. It also launched missile attacks targeting US military bases in the region, including Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates, and the US Fifth Fleet headquarters in **Bahrain**

TRUMP SPEAKS

- For 47 years, the **Iranian regime has chanted Death to America** and waged an unending campaign of bloodshed and mass murder, targeting the US, our troops...
- From Lebanon to Yemen and Syria to Iraq, the regime has armed, **trained and funded terrorist militias** that have soaked the earth with blood and guts...
- **Iran is the world's number one state sponsor of terror**...this terrorist regime can never have a nuclear weapon...
- **We're going to destroy their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground.** It will be totally again obliterated. We're going to annihilate their navy...
- The **lives of courageous American heroes may be lost**, and we may have casualties. That often happens in war. But we're doing this not for now. We're doing this for the future. And it is a **noble mission...**
- To the members of the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard, the armed forces** and all of the police, I say tonight that you must **lay down your weapons... Or in the alternative, face certain death...**
- To the great proud **people of Iran**, I say tonight that the hour of your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered. **When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take...**

Israelis shelter underground as govt shuts schools, bans gatherings

Across Israel, city streets stood deserted on Saturday as residents took cover in shelters, while the blasts from Iranian missiles being intercepted reverberated overhead. It was the second time in under a year that Israelis were undertaking this grim wartime routine, having first fled Iranian missiles during a 12-day war between the arch-foes last June.

In the commercial hub of Tel Aviv, Orit Baisa, 42, rushed to an underground car park as soon as he heard the air raid sirens warning of an incoming missile barrage. "We don't have a shelter, no safe room. The stairwell isn't a compliant secure room. This (car park) is the safest place there is," he said. "If this (war) is going to last, then yes, sure, we'll go back to it, bring the tents, the mattresses, bring all the equipment and live here, like last time," he said.

Andrea Siposova, who fled to the same car park, said she had prepared for the shelter in case war broke out.

Inside, some people had brought prams, others, who were reservists, their assault rifles while some began praying in a small group.

Israel banned public gatherings, shut schools and workplaces and moved hospital patients to underground facilities on Saturday. Defence minister Israel Katz declared a state of emergency across the country, warning the public of Iranian missile and drone attacks.

There were few reports of damage from Iran's missile barrages. At the Sheba Medical Center, medical workers were moving hospital wards underground. In Jerusalem, people rushed to buy food and withdraw money as explosions from missile interceptions echoed across the city. REUTERS

Will teach aggressor lesson it deserves: Iran

▶Continued from P1

President Trump said in a video posted to Truth Social on Saturday that in addition to targeting Iran's nuclear programme, the US would also "raze their missile industry to the ground" and "annihilate their navy", arguing that Iran had refused to reach a deal that would have averted war.

"My administration has taken every possible step to minimise the risk to US personnel in the region," Trump said. "Even so, and I do not make this statement lightly, the Iranian regime seeks to kill. The lives of courageous American heroes may be lost and we may have casualties. That often happens in war, but we're doing this not for now, we're doing this for the future," he said.

Analysts warned that the fighting could easily devolve into a protracted war with no clear exit. Many world leaders urged restraint, although Canada and Australia backed the US campaign against Iran.

Trump suggested that the conflict might end with Iranians rising up against their own authoritarian govt after the American assault. "It will be yours to take," Trump said, speaking to the Iranian public. "This will be probably your only chance for generations."

The Iranian foreign minister, promised that Iran's army "will teach aggressors the lesson they deserve", but said Tehran was ready to de-escalate and the US could reach out for talks. NYT & AGENCIES

AFP

EXPLOSION IN DUBAI: A projectile falls over Dubai on Saturday. Two witnesses told AFP they heard an explosion and saw smoke rising from Dubai's man-made island The Palm as authorities reported four injured

World reacts cautiously as fears grow of a wider war

World leaders reacted warily to US and Israeli strikes on Iran on Saturday that triggered concerns of a broader conflict. European leaders held emergency meetings and took measures to protect their citizens in West Asia. Australia and Canada were more open in their support for the strikes, while Russia and China responded with criticism.

Britain, France and Germany called for a resumption of US-Iran nuclear negotiations and condemned Iranian attacks on countries in the region. They did not directly comment on the US and Israeli strikes on Iran. UK PM Starmer, French President Macron and German Chancellor Merz said in a statement their countries didn't take part in the strikes on Iran but are in touch with the US, Israel and partners in the region.

Russia's foreign ministry called the strikes "a pre-planned and unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent UN member state." The ministry accused Washington and Tel Aviv of "hiding behind" concerns about Iran's nuclear programme while actually pursuing regime change. China's govt said it was "highly concerned" about the US and Israeli strikes on Iran and called for an immediate halt to the military action and a return to negotiations.

Australian PM Anthony Albanese said his country supports the US in its effort to stop Iran from obtaining an atomic bomb. He described Iran's current leadership as a destabilising force. Canada too expressed its support for the military action. "...Iran is the principal source of instability and terror throughout the Middle East (West Asia)," PM Carney said. AP

Ayatollah Khamenei has Iran in iron grip

Among the first targets in US and Israeli strikes on Iran on Saturday was the headquarters of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, an inveterate foe of the West who has crushed internal opposition while supporting proxy forces across the region.

A source with knowledge of the matter said Khamenei had been transferred in advance to a secure location outside Tehran, but his status could not be immediately verified, as satellite images showed damage to his Tehran compound. Killing Khamenei, as an Israeli official said the strikes had tried to do, would deal a massive blow to the Islamic Republic that he has led since 1989, a decade after rising to prominence in the theocratic revolution that toppled Iran's monarchy and rocked West Asia.

The 86-year-old has survived foreign pressure before but, even before Saturday's attack, he was facing the gravest crisis of his 36-year rule, attempting to spin out negotiations with the US over Iran's nuclear programme. Already this year, he has ordered the deadliest crackdown since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, saying those protesting nationwide, initially against soaring prices, "should be put in their place" before security forces opened fire on demonstrators chanting "Death to the dictator!"

With Hezbollah weakened in Lebanon and Syria's Bashar al-Assad toppled, Khamenei's reach across West Asia has been stunted, while the US has been demanding he abandon Iran's last major strategic lever - its ballistic missiles.

AFP

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Khamenei refused to even discuss giving up missiles, which Iran sees as its only remaining deterrent to Israeli attack, a display of intransigence that may have helped invite the latest airstrikes.

At times of increasing pressure, Khamenei has turned to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Basij, a paramilitary force numbering hundreds of thousands of volunteers, to snuff out dissent. His power also owes much to the parastatal financial empire known as Setad.

Khamenei suffered severe torture, according to his official biography, in 1963, when at 24 he served the first of many terms in prison for political activities under the rule of the Shah. He won the presidency with Khomeini's support but was a surprise choice as successor when the supreme leader died, lacking both his popular appeal and his superior clerical credentials. REUTERS

Neil Sedaka, legendary singer-songwriter, dies

New York: Neil Sedaka, the hit-making singer-songwriter whose boyish soprano and bright melodies made him a top act in the early years of rock 'n' roll and led to a second run of success in the 1970s, died Friday at age 86. Sedaka's hits included "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do" and "Laughter in the Rain".

"Our family is devastated by the sudden passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Neil Sedaka," his family said. "A true rock and roll legend, an inspiration to millions, but most importantly, to those of us who were lucky enough to know him, an incredible human being who will be deeply missed." No other details of his death were immediately available.

Sedaka's songs sold millions worldwide and have been covered by a range of performers, from Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra to The 5th Dimension and Nickelback. Sedaka helped propel the career of Connie Francis with "Stupid Cupid" and "Where the Boys Are," the latter for the soundtrack of the movie with the same name.

Sedaka married wife Leba in 1962. They had two children. Daughter Dara recorded a duet with dad in 1980, "Should've Never Let You Go." It was a hit, but she never joined him in the music business. Son Marc is a film writer. AP

Trump punishes Anthropic for defying Pentagon

Hegseth Deems Co Supply Chain Risk; OpenAI Strikes Deal To Supply Tech For Military

Washington: The Trump administration on Friday ordered all US agencies to stop using Anthropic's artificial intelligence technology and imposed other major penalties, escalating an unusually public clash between the govt and the company over AI safety.

President Donald Trump, defence secretary Pete Hegseth and other officials took to social media to chastise Anthropic for failing to allow the military unrestricted use of its AI technology by a Friday deadline, accusing it of endangering national security after CEO Dario Amodei refused to back down over concerns the company's products could be used in ways that would violate its safeguards. "We don't need it, we don't want it, and will not do business with them again!" Trump said on social media.

Hegseth also deemed the company a "supply chain risk," a designation typically stamped on foreign adversaries that could derail the company's critical partnerships with other businesses. In a statement issued Friday evening, Anthropic said it would challenge what it called an unprecedented and legally unsound action "never before publicly applied to an American company." Anthropic had said it sought narrow assurances from the Pentagon that its AI chatbot Claude would not be used for mass surveillance of Americans or in fully autonomous weapons. The Pentagon said it was not interested in such uses and would only deploy the technology in legal ways, but it also insisted on access without any limitations.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman says the same red lines that were the sticking point in Anthropic's dispute with Pentagon now enshrined in his co's new partnership

Hours after its competitor was punished, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman announced on Friday night that his company struck a deal with the Pentagon to supply its AI to classified military networks, potentially filling a gap created by Anthropic's ouster. But Altman said that the same red lines that were the sticking point in Anthropic's dispute with the Pentagon are now enshrined in OpenAI's new partnership.

"Two of our most important safety principles are prohibitions on domestic mass surveillance and human responsibility for the use of force, including for autonomous weapon systems," Altman wrote, adding that the defence department "agrees with these principles, reflects them in law and policy, and we put them into our agreement." Altman also said he hopes the Pentagon will "offer these same terms to all AI companies" as a way to "de-escalate away from legal and governmental actions and toward reasonable agreements." Trump said Anthropic made a mistake trying to strong-arm the Pentagon. AP

Pak, Af continue to clash as diplomatic efforts intensify

Islamabad: Pakistan's military, backed by artillery and air power, struck more military installations deep inside Afghanistan overnight after Pakistan said it was in "open war" with its neighbour.

Pakistan claimed Saturday more than 330 Afghan forces had been killed since fighting erupted Thursday night during a broad Afghan cross-border attack into Pakistan. Afghanistan rejected the figures as false. On Saturday, the Afghan defence ministry claimed that Afghan forces killed 110 Pakistani soldiers during ongoing fighting. The casualty figures provided by either side could not be independently confirmed.

Pakistani security sources said an operation dubbed "Ghazab Lil Haq" was ongoing and that Pakistani forces had destroyed numerous Taliban posts and camps.

Diplomatic efforts gathered pace late Friday as Afghanistan said its foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, had spoken with Saudi Arabia's Prince Faisal bin Farhan about reducing tensions and keeping diplomatic channels open. The European Union urged both sides to de-escalate and engage in dialogue, while the UN urged an immediate end to hostilities.

Russia urged a return to talks, while China said it was ready to help ease tensions. The US state department said the US supported Pakistan's right to defend itself against attacks by the Taliban and that Islamabad was pressured to address security challenges. AGENCIES

THE MEN OF THE FINAL

From commanding centuries to decisive spells and astute leadership, here are five J&K stars who seized the big moments in the title contest...

Auqib Nabi: Nabi was the heartbeat of J&K's campaign, finishing as the season's highest wicket-taker with 60 wickets in 10 matches, including a stunning 7/24. Having consistently dismantled batting lineups throughout the season, the 29-year-old pacer from Baramulla turned in another match-winning show in Hubballi, backing his batters with a decisive 5/54 against Karnataka.

Qamran Iqbal: Fate seemed to script Qamran Iqbal's moment in the sun. Not a part of the squad for the final, the 24-year-old from Srinagar received an SOS call from the team on match eve, flew into Hubballi on match day and walked in as injury cover. After a first-innings six, he contributed an unbeaten 160 — his highest first-class score — to play his part in the title tilt.

Shubham Pundir: Shubham Pundir rose to the occasion, steering J&K into the driver's seat from the very first day of the final. In a contest billed as J&K's bowlers versus Karnataka's batters, the 27-year-old Dehradun-born flipped the narrative with a composed 121.

Paras Dogra: At 41, the veteran captain marshalled a J&K dressing room brimming with players nearly half his age. Amid youthful energy, he led from the front with 637 runs in 10 matches, including two centuries, finishing as J&K's second-highest run-scorer. His resolute 70 in the final set the tone as experience and assurance powered J&K to a historic title triumph.

Sahil Lotra: The 28-year-old from Jammu followed up a crucial 72 in the first innings against Karnataka with a composed, unbeaten 101 in the second — his maiden first-class century — to steer J&K to glory. Sahil, who has played just five matches this season, also chipped in with a wicket in the final to seal a memorable allround show.

—Chitrangada.C@timesofindia.com

Pix: Syed Asif

WHEN TIME STOOD STILL FOR J&K

Team Keeps Tryst With Destiny, Claims First Ranji Crown In Emphatic Fashion

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Hubballi: It was 2:11 pm, Feb 28, 2026. The moment will forever be etched in Jammu and Kashmir's cricketing lore. After keeping the champagne on ice for nearly three days, the first-time finalists became the 19th team to win the Ranji Trophy, lifting the silverware in emphatic fashion at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Saturday.

Having piled up 584 in the first innings and bowling Karnataka out for 293, J&K declared their second innings at 342/4 to shut the door firmly on the more fancied, eight-time champions and deny the hosts a ninth title.

Although disappointed with their home team, the large crowd rose to acknowledge Paras Dogra and his men, a team that had batted, bowled and believed their way into history.

If Shubham Pundir's first-innings century set the tone, the final day belonged to Qamran Iqbal (160 not out) and Sahil Lotra (101 not out), who piled on the agony for Karnataka as the hosts went wicketless on the final morning.

The celebrations were heartfelt and unrestrained. With Ramadan and travel logistics keeping families away, a small group of supporters from the J&K community in Karnataka filled the void. Just before the start of the final session, the team management hired local dhol artists, something usually banned at Indian cricket venues. As the beats echoed around the ground, confetti and fireworks by the Karnataka State Cricket Assciation (KSCA) turned the modest venue into a festival arena.

The moment Dogra and Karnataka skipper Devdutt Padikkal completed the customary handshake, J&K players streamed onto the field. Iqbal and Lotra were soon swallowed by jubilant teammates before the squad broke into dance as the dhols thundered.

J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah, who chose to sit near the team dressing room rather than in the protocol enclosure, applauded and captured the celebration of a historic day for the state on his phone.

This triumph was more than just a title. It was the reward for years of persistence by a team that grew together under head coach Ajay Sharma and refused to fade after repeated heartbreaks.

J&K had reached the quarterfinals in 2013-14 and 2019-20 and come within one run of the final last season against Kerala. That pain fuelled a campaign built on resilience and quiet confidence.

Season-long spearhead Auqib Nabi called it the fulfilment of a childhood dream. "It's a dream we've lived for many years. This victory is not just for the team but for J&K," he said.

For 41-year-old skipper Paras Dogra, the moment carried the weight of a lifetime. "I've waited 25 years for this. I can't explain what it feels like to hold this trophy," he said.

Leader, mentor and father-figure rolled into one, Dogra kept reminding his players through the season: "This time will not come again." They listened and delivered in emphatic fashion.

As the players soaked in the moment, many admitted the magnitude of the achievement had not yet sunk in. But one thing was certain — Jammu and Kashmir's first Ranji Trophy triumph was a story of belief, patience and heart.

SCORES: J&K 584 & 342/4 decl (Qamran Iqbal 160*, Sahil Lotra 101*) drew with **Karnataka 293.**
Result: Match drawn (J&K won on the basis of first-innings lead).

CM ANNOUNCES RS 2 CRORE CASH REWARD

Srinagar: As J&K cricket team lifted their maiden Ranji Trophy title, chief minister Omar Abdullah, who was watching the match in Hubli, announced a Rs 2 crore cash reward for the players and support staff, reports Naseer Ganai.

> **The way the team played against Mumbai, Delhi, Bengal, MP, Hyderabad and Rajasthan — they were all former champions with a lot of experience and Test cricketers. We had no hero like them, but now everybody has become a hero."**
> —Ajay Sharma | COACH J&K

NABI RIDES CREST OF A WAVE

Auqib Nabi, the 29-year-old pacer from Sheeri, Baramulla, has become the poster boy of J&K cricket, playing an instrumental role in the team's unprecedented march to the Ranji Trophy title...

Nabi's wicket-aggregate in the Ranji season 2025-26
10 matches, **60** wickets, **7** five-wicket hauls, **28.4** strike rate

NABI'S MAN OF THE MATCH AWARDS IN RANJI TROPHY (INCLUDING 3 THIS SEASON)

Opponent	Venue	Series	Performance
Odisha	Cuttack	2019-20	5/39 + 2/40 + 23* + 26*
Meghalaya	Shillong	2024-25	5/14 + 5/60 + 14
Tripura	Jammu	2024-25	6/54 + 4/54
Delhi	Delhi	2025-26	5/35 + 0/43
MP	Indore	2025-26	7/40 + 5/70
Bengal	Kalyani	2025-26	5/87 + 4/36 + 42

LONG JOURNEY TO TITLE: MANHAS

Hubballi: BCCI president and former J&K Cricket Association head Mithun Manhas has watched most of the Ranji final here with the satisfaction of a man who has witnessed Jammu and Kashmir cricket rise through its most testing phases.

On Saturday, jubilant J&K players hoisted Manhas on their shoulders in the middle of the ground, celebrating the historic triumph with one of the key architects of their rise. A visibly pleased Manhas later reflected on the journey that culminated in the long-awaited title.

"It took us 67 years. It's been a long journey to the title," he said. "I'm thankful to the BCCI for giving us a state-of-the-art academy facility in Jammu, where we will have indoor practice areas, a swimming pool and a gymnasium. We are planning similar facilities in Kashmir as well. "What we now need are stadiums coming up in both Jammu and Kashmir. We need facilities in Rajouri, Poonch and the Chenab region because this team has players from across the state. Hopefully we will get the required funds from the BCCI."

Manhas also acknowledged the role played by current ICC chairman Jay Shah, who was the BCCI secretary when administrative reforms were initiated in Jammu & Kashmir cricket. "I'm very thankful to Jay bhai for his vision, the way he formed the [sub] committee in 2021, keeping in mind both administration and cricketing aspects and involving the right people," Manhas said.

—Manuja Veerappa

> Congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir team for their first ever Ranji Trophy win! This historic triumph reflects remarkable grit, discipline and passion of the team. It is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there. May this feat inspire many young athletes to dream big and play more."
> —Narendra Modi | PM

"The Kashmir willows have been a part of many champions' kits. To see Jammu & Kashmir's journey from being an enabler of champions, to becoming champions themselves, is beautiful. Journeys like these define the beauty of domestic cricket."
—Sachin Tendulkar
EX-INDIA CAPTAIN

Emerging sides punching above their weight

▶ Continued from P1

J&K's celebrations reflected the journey of a team that had travelled a long and arduous road. The victory marked the fulfilment of a dream that began on a winter morning on Jan 15, 1960, when Kanwar Sethi led Jammu and Kashmir in its maiden Ranji Trophy match against Eastern Punjab at the Municipal Ground in Jalandhar. The debut ended in an innings-and-78-run defeat. It subsequently took 22 years for the team to register its first Ranji win, a four-wicket victory over Services in Udhampur in 1982.

From that first win to the ultimate prize, the journey has taken nearly 44 years — years marked by hardship and resilience. With limited infrastructure, difficult terrain, political unrest and administrative challenges, competitive cricket often struggled to survive in the region. Yet the dream endured.

Among those who sparked belief was the legendary Bishan Singh Bedi, whose influence helped transform the team from also-rans into genuine competitors in 2011. Over the years, players, coaches and administrators carried that vision forward, with former India and Delhi batter and current coach Ajay Sharma guiding the side to what is hopefully the first of many milestones.

"It's a proud moment for the team and the people of J&K. It's a dream come true and it's been a long journey. We are very happy," said an elated Sharma.

J&K's triumph continues a growing trend in domestic cricket of traditional powerhouses being challenged by emerging sides. Gujarat's breakthrough triumph in 2016-17 was followed by Vidarbha's maiden title. Saurashtra and Madhya Pradesh have also enjoyed historic wins.

At 29, Nabi still has much to offer Indian cricket. Hopefully, the belief that carried his team from obscurity to champions will help him earn his India cap.

In Sheeri: Auqib's family watches the big game

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Baramulla: Baramulla: Some 40 km west of Uri, close to the Line of Control, sits Sheeri village. Along the Jhelum Valley road, north west of Srinagar. There, a narrow lane off the main road takes you to the home of cricketer Auqib Nabi Dar. It is barely wide enough for three people to walk alongside each other, but remember the address. For it is not to be forgotten in a hurry.

Usually bustling in the manner that tiny mountain villages can be, on Saturday however, shops in Sheeri were open but business was slow. Men stood milling on the narrow streets, groups of boys were gathered, mobile phones in their hands. It looked aimless but there was purpose. Constantly checking their phones, sharing updates, exhausting mobile data by the minute, they kept abreast with the Ranji Trophy final score in faraway Hubballi.

Inside the two-storey dwelling, family members sat in a small room, huddled before a modestly-sized TV set. Next to the TV, in the cramped room, tucked in was an almirah. In its chest, it contained the many cricketing medals that Auqib has won over the years. The room was quiet except for the sound of the TV commentary.

His grandmother, Fazi, her wizened eyes fixed on the screen, smiled whenever the camera showed Auqib. Father Ghulam Nabi Dar, a government school teacher, leaned forward as he sat, closely following every ball. Like a prayer off a rosary, he quietly reeled off names of players and match details as the final reached its hour. When Jammu and Kashmir won, the family looked at each other. And smiled quietly. Women members hugged each other. Moments later came the announcement that Auqib Nabi Dar had been named Player of the tournament. The room fell silent, again as if hushed before prayer, as he began his post-match interview.

"He is a shy boy," his father said, smiling, not taking his eyes off the screen.

SNAP SHOTS

Sindhu stranded in Dubai

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu was on Saturday left stranded at Dubai airport en route to the All England Open badminton tournament, after flight operations were suspended. Sindhu took to Instagram showing a crowded airport and wrote: "All flights suspended until further notice."

Gukesh loses: World champion D Gukesh suffered a shock defeat to Jorden van Foreest of Holland, while Aravindh Chithambaram played out a draw with Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran in the third round of the Masters section of the Prague International chess festival.

Medvedev wins with walkover: Daniil Medvedev was awarded the Dubai Tennis Championships title after his opponent Tallon Griekspoor withdrew due to an injury he suffered in the semifinals.

Kochhar T-23: Karandeep Kochhar shot 70 in the third round and slipped to tied 23rd at the New Zealand Open presented by Millbrook Resort in Millbrook, New Zealand. He had a 1-under 70 with five birdies, two bogeys and a double bogey.

Diksha bounces back: Diksha Dagar bounced back from a disappointing first round of 77 with 66-65 in the next two rounds to rise to tied 26th in the Women's NSW Open in Australia. She is now 5-under and moved up to T-26 after three days. Hitaashee Bakshi, Pranavi Urs and Avani Prashanth missed the cut.

Bagan hammer Sporting: Mohun Bagan Super Giant scored a comprehensive 5-1 victory over Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Kolkata derby of the ISL in Kolkata on Saturday. In another match, Inter Kashi defeated Kerala Blasters 2-1.

Messi knocked down: Inter Miami's Lionel Messi was knocked to the ground by a guard who was restraining a shirtless fan on the field near the end of their 2-1 friendly win over Ecuadorean champions Independiente del Valle in Puerto Rico.

A win largely built on home-grown talent

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Hubballi: Jammu and Kashmir cricket embraced the philosophy long before the 'vocal for local' initiative came into existence in 2024. The freshly-crowned Ranji Trophy champions have long trusted homegrown talent in red-ball cricket, choosing to invest in local players rather than relying on professionals from other states.

Saturday's title-winning skipper Paras Dogra, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, is among the rare exceptions in a squad overwhelmingly built around local cricketers. From Baramulla, Srinagar and Pulwama in the north of the Valley to Jammu in the southwest and Doda in the east, the team reflects the breadth of talent spread across the region.

VOCAL FOR LOCAL

Former J&K allrounder Samiullah Beigh believes the state has always had a rich supply of cricketers. "We've always had the belief that we are good enough to compete. There was never a shortage of talent. What we didn't have was infrastructure to back it," Beigh told TOI.

While those within the system believed in their potential, the same confidence was not always shared outside the state. "A decade ago, when I spoke about how J&K's fortunes would change if our infrastructure improved, people thought I was bragging. But our belief came from what we saw every day. Watching thousands of youngsters playing cricket at a ground is normal for us," said the Srinagar-born cricketer. "At Eidgah maidaan in Srinagar, for instance, you will find at least a thousand players practicing or playing on their own every morning. Their ambitions may not always be defined but their passion is unmistakable. We always believed we could go the distance because our progress has been steady."

Syed Asif

IN THE GROOVE: Jammu & Kashmir players celebrates their win in Hubballi

Former India spinner Sunil Joshi, one of the architects of J&K's resurgence during his tenure as coach, said the region's strength lay in its natural talent pool. "They didn't need outside talent because they already had plenty in their backyard. What they needed was technical expertise, mentorship and guidance to channelise that hunger," Joshi said, adding, "Over the past few seasons Ajay Sharma has done a tremendous job, while Paras Dogra brought valuable experience to complement the young talent."

Beigh outlined that the historic Ranji Trophy triumph should now serve as a springboard for strengthening the grassroots structure. "Talent is not an issue. What we need is structured club cricket, more grounds and systematic coaching so that we can build on this success," he said.

Yamal does the 'trick

Lamine Yamal scored the first hat-trick of his career as Barcelona beat visitors Villarreal 4-1 in LaLiga on Saturday to move four points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the standings. Barcelona have 64 points while second-placed Real are on 60 points ahead of their home game against Getafe on Monday.

Yamal put the hosts ahead in the 28th minute after Fermin Lopez robbed Pape Gueye and slipped a pass down the right for the 18-year-old to finish low inside the left post.

FOOTBALL

He doubled the lead nine minutes later with a solo run, controlling a long ball on right wing before cutting inside past Sergi Cardona and Alvaro Moleiro to curl a shot into the top corner. Gueye pulled one back from close range in the 49th minute, but Villarreal missed chances to equalise and paid the price as Yamal completed his hat-trick in the 69th minuted with another counter attack.

LIVERPOOL PREVAIL

Liverpool climbed into the Premier League's top five with a 5-2 win over struggling West Ham.

Select results: Spanish league: Barcelona 4 (Yamal 28, 37, 69, Lewandowski 90+1) bt Villarreal 1 (Gueye 49). **EPL:** Burnley 3 (Kayode 45+3-og, Anthony 47, Flemming 60) lost to Brentford 4 (Damsgaard 9, 90+3, Thiago 25, Schade 34); Liverpool 5 (Ekitike 5, Van Dijk 24, Mac Allister 43, Gakpo 70, Disasi 82-og) bt West Ham 2 (Soucek 49, Castellanos 75); Newcastle 2 (Ramsey 32, Murphy 82) lost to Everton 3 (Branthwaite 19, Beto 34, Barry 83). AGENCIES

One-handed wonder: Can tennis' classic stroke still rule?

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Lorenzo Musetti uncoiling his backhand is a picture of vintage elegance. The 23-year-old glides across the baseline before carving out the single-handed shot, a whippy action that finishes in a painterly flourish high over his shoulder. The entire motion, emerging from his 6 feet 1 inch frame, appears more choreographed than crafted — raising a compelling question: can a single-handed backhand still win a Grand Slam in this punishing, high-rpm era dominated by Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner?

UNIQUE ARTISTRY

Stan Wawrinka, the most powerful modern-day exponent of the stroke, has no doubt. "We see it already with Musetti — he is a really, really good player," Wawrinka said at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships. "I love to watch him play. He's a really interesting player; he can do everything. He moves well and his backhand is unbelievable."

Getty Images

"I enjoyed playing the backhand myself, it gave me a lot of matches. It helped me achieve what I wanted," the 40-year-old Swiss, now in his farewell season, reflected. "The enjoyment I experienced playing a one-handed backhand was the same when I was younger and later in my career."

In an era defined by baseline brutality and relentless topspin, the single-handed backhand has become an endangered art on the ATP Tour. Only one practitioner, Musetti, is inside the Top 5. Just eight players in the current Top 100 — Musetti (No. 5), Denis Shapovalov (39), Grigor Dimitrov (42), Stefanos Tsitsipas (43), Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard (54), Daniel Altmaier (55), Aleksandar Kovacevic (71), and Wawrinka (92) — wield the classic one-hander, roughly eight percent of the elite field.

It remains one of tennis's most elegant strokes — fluid, expressive, unmistakable — but artistry alone is rarely enough.

Tsitsipas, a two-time major finalist at the 2021 French Open and 2023 Australian Open, was once tipped to deliver a Grand Slam for the single-handers. "I'd love to see it happen," the 27-year-old said. "It would be a great story if it happens, we are rather an extinct species. I would put myself in there, for sure, as one of the players who could break this drought."

With the ability to generate pace and spin at will, Shapovalov's left-handed one-handed backhand is both weapon and signature.

"It has definitely become more common to have a solid two-handed backhand and be aggressive with the forehand," the Canadian said. "It's that steady shot with which you can absorb pace. At the same time, the one-handed backhand gives you a weapon. You can be more creative with it, have more variety, more spin, and be more aggressive." "I definitely believe in myself. I've been to the quarters and semis of Slams," Shapovalov added. "It's very difficult to get there and beat these top guys, especially Jannik and Carlos right now, but I would definitely love to see that."

Former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, who is beginning to find momentum again after clinching the Dubai Duty Free title, acknowledged the advantages of the two-handed backhand in today's game — a stroke new-age coaches emphasise at the grassroots level — but refused to shut the door on the single-hander.

"You never know, there's going to be one guy who comes in and smashes the one-handed backhand," the Russian said. "I felt like when Dominic Thiem wasn't playing his best, you could target the backhand and wait for errors. When he was at his best, his backhand was better than his forehand — and his forehand is pretty good."

In a game dominated by raw power and relentless spin, the one-handed backhand remains a classic stroke offering unique artistry and tactical finesse — keeping alive the possibility that one day it will lift a Grand Slam trophy once again.

Assessment axe falls on Panghal, Neeraj

New Delhi: CWG and Asian Games champion Amit Panghal and World Boxing Cup Finals bronze medallist Neeraj Phogat have lost their places in the national camp after failing an intensive month-long evaluation at NIS Patiala ahead of the Asian Championships in Ulaanbaatar from March 28 to April 11, reports **Sabi Hussain.**

BOXING

Following underwhelming performances in the assessment process, Panghal (men's 55kg) and Neeraj (women's 65kg) will have to leave the elite camp. The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) will not consider them for selection in upcoming international tournaments including the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. TNN

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"ENGLAND ARE THE FORM TEAM. TO WIN ALL GAMES IN THE SUPER 8s IS A GOOD EFFORT. THEY'LL BE FLYING INTO THOSE SEMIS, WHOEVER THEY PLAY. THEY HAVE DIFFERENT GUYS STEPPING UP. I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE FACING THEM IN THE SEMIS."
—Mitchell Santner | NZ SKIPPER

INTO THE HANDS OF FATE

The Equation Is Simple For Suryakumar's Men: Win Today & Book Semis Spot. West Indies, However, Might Have other Plans...

Saibal.Bose@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: It's a straightforward knockout contest now and number crunching over net run-rate is no longer required. India just have to beat West Indies at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday to make the semifinals of the T20 World Cup. The West Indies are in the same position but punters would advise you to put your money on India. Yet, fingers will remain crossed.

The statisticians might still be called upon for calculations in the unlikely scenario of Zimbabwe beating South Africa, but that will only be to decide the group toppers. South Africa are well ahead in that race too.

India's blip against South Africa was a timely reminder that Suryakumar Yadav and his men have to be on their toes all the time. South Africa in fact, also showed that the West Indies, in spite of their recent successes, continue to have a streak of inconsistency that makes them so unpredictable. This Caribbean tendency will also keep India on the alert. One false step can make a huge difference.

Abhishek Sharma's return to form against Zimbabwe was good news for India, even though the opener wasn't as free flowing as he normally is. The occasional caution during his half-century indicated that doubts might have crept into his mind following a string of poor scores.

Even Tilak Varma would have overcome some uncertainties during his 16-ball 44 against the same opponents. Both will be aware that the West Indies will pose stiffer challenges. Given Varma's struggles against spin, facing the likes of Roston Chase, Gudakesh Motie and Akeal Hosein can be tricky.

India might continue with the left-right opening combination of Abhishek and Sanju Samson, even though the latter didn't really utilise the opportunity against Zimbabwe to the full. This combination does help in throwing the rival bowlers off their line.

Talking about bowlers, Jaspreet Bumrah will once again be the pacer to watch. As soon as he steps on the Eden turf, he will be reminded of his 5 for 27 in the South Africa Test here last Oct. Despite the dryness of the pitch, Bumrah's spell could well be a deciding factor. Bumrah has been very economical in the tournament so far, giving away just 90 runs in five matches. His accuracy has been one of India's biggest advantages.

Of course, the West Indies have batters who can prove to be troublesome for India. Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope and Sherfane Rutherford would need a little time to settle and can turn out to be threats. Skipper Hope is quite uncharacteristic as a Caribbean batter. His shots are much more orthodox and his aggression is calculated. He is capable of molding his innings as per the situation, a quality that might be required at the Eden. They also have a long batting lineup, with Jason Holder and Romero Shephard producing brilliant innings against South Africa coming at No. 7 and 9.

The West Indies are a cohesive lot this time around and their players have iterated they are enjoying the dressing room atmosphere. They have played two matches here during the tournament.

Krishna Roy

LIMBERING UP: Ishan Kishan at Eden Gardens on Saturday

HOW THEY STAND

Teams	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
Super 8s, Group 1						
SA	2	2	0	0	4	2.89
WI	2	1	1	0	2	1.79
Ind	2	1	1	0	2	-0.10
Zim	2	0	2	0	0	-4.47
Super 8s, Group 2						
Eng	3	3	0	0	6	1.09
NZ	3	1	1	1	3	1.39
Pak	3	1	1	1	3	-0.12
SL	3	0	3	0	0	-1.95

Note: Top-two teams from each group qualify for semis

FACE-OFF
IND vs WI
TV TIME: 7 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

IND	WI
19	10

LAST FIVE MATCHES

IND	W	L	W	W	W
WI	L	W	W	W	W

VENUE: KOLKATA
WEATHER 26°C

ODDS

IND	WI
3/10	3/1

3 West Indies have won three out of four T20 World Cup games played against India — by 7 wickets at Lord's on June 12, 2009, by 14 runs in Bridgetown on May 9, 2010 and by 7 wickets at the Wankhede in Mumbai on March 31, 2016. India's only triumph was by 7 wickets in Mirpur on March 23, 2014.

5.47 Jasprit Bumrah's economy rate while claiming 33 wickets in 23 matches, the best among bowlers with 30 or more wickets in the T20 World Cup.

209.67 Suryakumar Yadav's strike rate while posting 65 off 31 balls at Eden Gardens on Feb 20, 2022, the highest among his four fifties vs West Indies in T20Is. The India skipper's 44-ball 83 in Providence on Aug 8, 2023 is his highest score against WI in T20Is.

—**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

BACK ON 'HOME' TURF

Varun Has Chance To Silence Doubters

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Kolkata: The one thing that strikes you about Varun Chakravarthy is his complete lack of facial expressions. Just by looking at him, you wouldn't know if he has taken a wicket or gone for a six. Rather, his teammates seem to be more excited about his achievements than him. But that takes nothing away from him being an integral part of India's T20 squad.

Varun is now back at the venue where he has thrived in the past. The 34-year-old leg-break googly bowler, an important part of the Kolkata Knight Riders team in the IPL, will consider Eden Gardens his home. Of his 100 IPL wickets, 99 are for KKR, with this iconic venue contributing quite a few of those. This is not lost on the Indian team management and assistant coach Ryan ten Doschate agrees Varun could be one of their potent weapons here.

"Varun obviously had a lot of success here," ten Doschate said on Saturday. "I think it's pretty standard how we've utilized Varun so far. He bowls one over in the powerplay. He's our attacking option as well."

However, is Varun still as effective as he was in his early days? In the last two games against South Africa and Zimbabwe, he conceded 82 runs for his two wickets. Are the batters approaching him in a different way?

Ten Doschate is inclined to agree. "We're also aware that teams are now starting to play him a little bit differently. So we have some other strategies to deploy him in different facets of the game. But generally speaking he's someone we turn to for wickets and he's been really good at that and expect more of the same on Sunday."

VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY

The West Indies won't take Varun lightly despite his relatively indifferent form. "Last time I checked I think he was the No. 1 bowler in T20 cricket," West Indies coach Darren Sammy said. "We respect every opposition. We have our plans against each bowlers and vice versa, our bowlers versus their batsman. We got to play a complete game."

Back in the familiar surroundings of the Eden Gardens, the occasion could just be the perfect setting for Varun to silence doubters. And an early wicket in his powerplay over could well give India the edge.

Team firmly behind Rinku

Ten Doschate said that the team is standing firmly with batter Rinku Singh, who lost his father to cancer on Friday. "It's obviously a very sad time and he'll continue to get the love and support from everyone," he said.

'David can beat Goliath again'

Saibal.Bose@timesofindia.com

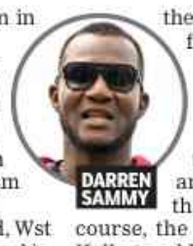
Kolkata: Darren Sammy may not be one of the best cricketers that West Indies has produced, but he is surely among the most eloquent. The coach got his message across loud and clear on Saturday: they are the underdogs but won't give up without a fight.

"History could repeat itself," he said referring to their win over India in the semifinals of the 2016 T20 World Cup, after a practice session on Saturday afternoon. "Although it was a different venue (Mumbai), and it's two different teams, you know, two teams trying to move on in the tournament."

"David did defeat Goliath (India) in 2016," he continued with a gentle smile. "David can beat Goliath again and that's what I am going to tell my boys."

For that, he admitted, Wst Indies have to be very good in their execution. "We've got to play a good game of cricket in order to come out victorious," he said.

Sammy is also aware that it is not just the Indian cricketers they'll be up against. There'll be 70,000 in the stands and another 1.4 billion across the country rooting for the Men in Blue. "We had to go through India some point to progress in the tournament and tomorrow is that day." And of course, the match being in Kolkata adds to the motivation. "Every time we come to Eden Gardens, it brings back good memories." For Sammy, it's the memories of the 2016 triumph that keeps playing in his mind.



DARREN SAMMY

The loss to South Africa was one bad day they are not going to keep brooding on.

Pak eke out a win, but lose out on a semis spot

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan: S Farhan c Liyanage b Madushanka 100, F Zaman b Chameera 84, K Nafay c Asalanka b Madushanka 2, S Khan run out 7, M Nawaz c Theekshana b Shanaka 0, S Agha c Theekshana b Shanaka 0, U Khan not out 8, S Afridi lbw b Madushanka 4, N Shah run out 1, A Ahmed not out 0; **Extras: (LB-3 W-3) 6; Total: (8 wkts in 20 overs) 212; FoW:** 1-176, 2-179, 3-198, 4-199, 5-199, 6-203, 7-207, 8-210; **Bowling:** D Madushanka 4-0-33-3, D Chameera 4-0-48-1, M Theekshana 4-0-35-0, D Shanaka 4-0-42-2, D Wellalage 3-0-37-0, J Liyanage 1-0-14-0

Sri Lanka: P Nissanka c M Nawaz b N Shah 3, K Mishara b A Ahmed 26, C Asalanka b A Ahmed 25, P Rathnayake c sub (Ayub) b S Afridi 58, K Mendis b A Ahmed 3, J Liyanage, b M Nawaz 5, D Shanaka not out 76, D Wellalage not out 2, **Extras** (lb 3, w 6) 9; **Total: (6 wkts in 20 Overs) 207/6; FoW:** 1-8, 2-33, 3-75, 4-94, 5-101, 6-162; **Bowling:** S Afridi 4-0-48-1, N Shah 4-0-36-1, A Ahmed 4-0-23-3, U Tariq 4-0-43-0, M Nawaz 2-0-21-1, S Khan 2-0-33-0.

Lankans Lose Again But New Zealand Through To SFs By Virtue Of Better NRR

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pakistan threw the punches, did their best, but it all came just a little too late. The thrilling win against Sri Lanka was not enough as they crashed out of the T20 World Cup, with New Zealand qualifying ahead of them as the second team from Super-8s Group 2.

Chasing 213 for victory, Sri Lanka needed 28 off the last over and Dasun Shanaka struck 22 off the first four balls to bring Sri Lanka to the brink of a magnificent victory. But Shaheen Afridi held his nerve, landed a couple of wide yorkers, and won the game for Pakistan by four runs.

But all that was happening after Pakistan had already crashed out. After putting up 212-8, Pakistan needed to contain Sri Lanka within 147 to have a better Net Run Rate than New Zealand. Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed (3-23) produced a superb spell, there were flutters in the Lanka chase but Pakistan just didn't have enough runs to get the required NRR.

Sri Lanka stopped and stuttered, but managed to go past 147 in 15.5 overs, which killed off Pakistan's hopes. One might feel a little sorry for Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan, who has been magnificent throughout the tournament.

AFP

176 Runs put on by Sahibzada Farhan (L) and Fakhar Zaman for the first wicket, the highest partnership for any wicket in T20 World Cup.

Farhan got his second century of the event — the first player to do so — and broke Virat Kohli's record of the highest runs in a single edition of the World Cup, but all that came in vain. The opening partnership of Farhan (100 off 60 balls) and Fakhar Zaman (84 off 42 balls) yielded 176 off 15.5 overs. But after the duo was dismissed, in the last three overs, Pakistan managed only 28 runs and lost six wickets.

The momentum that Pakistan lost in this phase proved costly in the end. But Farhan and Zaman showed that the 2022 finalists probably missed a trick by not having this pair from the beginning of the tournament.

While the two Lankan pacers Dilshan Madhushanka and Dushmantha Chamara were trying to keep it tight, it was the way Zaman took down mystery spinner Maheesh Theeshana that turned the tide in Pakistan's favour.

Zaman read Theekshana well off his hand, knew which way the ball was turning, and launched an attack. He flat-batted the mystery spinner a couple of times over the bowler's head that made it difficult for Theekshana. Farhan, on the other hand, just carried on with his superb form. He looked balanced in the crease, generated tremendous power and kept galloping along.

In the Powerplay, Pakistan got 64 while the 100 came in 9.5, which was a significant improvement from what they had been doing through the tournament. The Lankan bowler, in the next few overs, looked listless as the runs flowed.

SA revel in new-found self-belief

FACE-OFF
ZIM vs SA
TV TIME: 3 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

ZIM	SA
0	7

LAST FIVE MATCHES

ZIM	L	L	W	W	W
SA	W	W	W	W	W

VENUE: NEW DELHI
WEATHER 30°C

ODDS

ZIM	SA
8/1	1/10

Team Looks To Extend Its Unbeaten Run Vs Zimbabwe

Prasanth.Menon@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: "Favourites." It's a tag that rests heavily on the shoulders of the South African team given their history of choking in global ICC events. However, the new-look team seems to have turned a new leaf after ending their title drought by clinching the World Test Championship (WTC) crown at Lord's last June.

Eight months later, the Aiden Markram-led side seem to be charging towards another world title at the T20 World Cup and remain the only unbeaten team in the tournament. The South Africans have already sealed the semifinal berth by winning all six matches and have reduced their final Super 8 game against Zimbabwe here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday into an inconsequential tie.

While South African batting coach Ashwell Prince didn't want to look too far ahead, he admitted that the WTC victory has instilled a lot of belief in the team's quest for their maiden world title in limited-over format.

"Getting over the line in the WTC was a big moment for us as a country and for this group of players, which is largely the same group of players. Quinny (Quinton de Kock) has come back into this format and brings with him a whole lot of experience, adding to the experience of those guys who played the Test Championship final. And what that creates is a lot of confidence and trust. There's a big belief in your teammates that when their moment presents itself, they can step up and deliver," he said.

Tarun Rawat

WHAT'S THE PLAN? South African team during training in Delhi on Saturday

Barring the win against Afghanistan, which they prevailed in a Super Over, South Africa have demolished their opponents with ruthless efficiency. Not relying on individual brilliance, this outfit looks like a well-oiled unit.

The top-order comprising Markram, Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton have given their side brisk starts in a majority of the matches. When they have failed, the middle-order, especially David Miller and Dewald Brevis, have counter-attacked with gusto. The big-hitting Tristian Stubbs has provided the team with finishing touches.

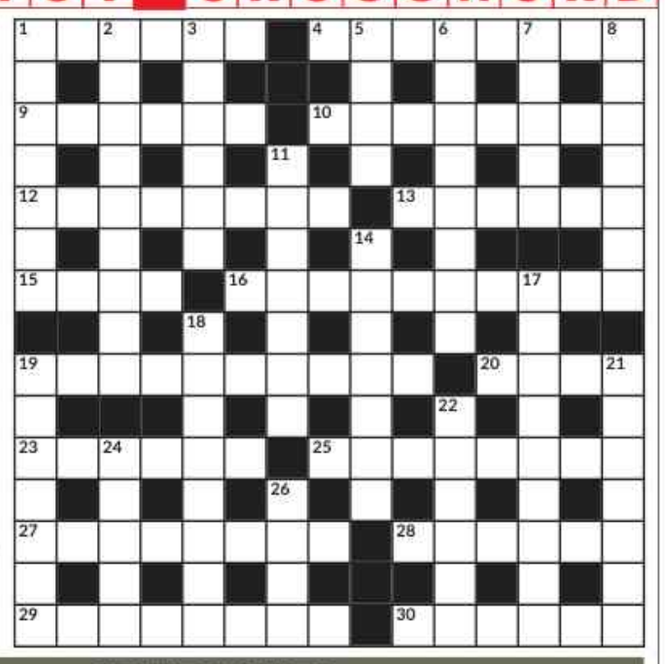
It's their bowling attack, however, that is giving the Proteas a cutting edge. Though Kagiso Rabada has not been at his best, the fast-bowling trinity of Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen and Corbin Bosch have compensated by claiming 31 of the 45 wickets South Africa have claimed in this tournament. The only blip in an otherwise clinical performance by the Markram-led side has been their catching. They have dropped at least eight catches in six games, quite uncharacteristic of a South African side.

On the other hand, after setting foot on Indian soil for the Super 8 stage of the competition, the wheels have come off Zimbabwe's spirited campaign. Already out of semifinal contention, the Zimbabweans haven't been able to maintain the stranglehold over their rivals like they did on the slow Sri Lankan tracks in the group phase.

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0261

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across
1 The gold glow of chestnut (6)
4 Conversation piece? (8)
9 Troops used in support (6)
10 They don't believe he requires foreign capital (8)
12 Mentioned why the whistle went too soon? (8)
13 Business fixed in minutes (6)
15 Rifle fire (4)
16 Prison type changed disposition (10)
19 Introduces offcuts (10)
20 At the beginning of last month it turned very cold (4)
23 He is in highest command (6)
25 Sweet sort of rain fall (4,4)
27 NCO arranged battle course (8)
28 She brings firm into line perhaps (6)
29 One way of saying one doesn't like it? (8)
30 Just one of them is perfect (6)

Down
1 Gives a hundred lines? (7)
2 Impudent type? (4-5)
3 Comment made about Antony (6)
5 Novel time piece (4)
6 Action man (8)
7 New information about the interior (5)
8 Yes, cats may produce this feeling in some people (7)
11 Tried to construct huge carport (7)
14 Chaps in organised vegetable production (7)
17 Become liable to debts without interest (9)
18 On the one hand they're instrumental in cutting (8)
19 Novel title of Esau's mother (7)
21 Maybe it's pressed to make one go down (7)
22 Recommend about five different ideas (6)
24 One of an opening pair (5)
26 Doctor on morning rounds (4)

QUICK CLUES

Across
1 Grovel (6) 4 Mountain region of SE Europe (8)
9 Sweet music (6) 10 Unchallengeable (4-4)
12 Impartial (8) 13 Artificial hairpiece (6) 15 Neat (4)
16 Avoidance of publicity (3,7) 19 Helpless (4,3,3)
20 Fluent and plausible (4) 23 Close at hand (6)
25 Foot soldiers (8) 27 Easily done (8) 28 Mediterranean principality (6) 29 Go to law (8) 30 Respectable (6)

Down
1 Small orange-like fruit (7) 2 Good health and happiness (4-5) 3 Painful experience (6) 5 Expression of regret (4) 6 Begin to understand (6,2) 7 Denude (5)
8 Heartfelt (7) 11 Archives (7) 14 Economical (7)
17 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 18 Incoherent (8) 19 Person hard to manage (7) 21 Ostracise (7) 22 In abundance (6)
24 Make suitable (5) 26 Monotonous (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

O	V	E	R	S	E	E	■	S	U	P	P	O	S	E
C	■	R	■	P	■	S	■	C	■	A	■	P	■	V
T	O	R	C	H	E	S	■	R	A	G	T	I	M	E
O	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	A	■	A	■	N	■	R
P	A	T	E	R	■	N	O	T	I	N	T	I	M	E
U	■	I	■	I	■	■	■	C	■	■	■	O	■	S
S	A	C	K	C	L	O	T	H	■	T	E	N	E	T
■	■	■	■	A	■	U	■	E	■	A	■	■	■	■
L	O	C	A	L	■	T	I	D	E	T	A	B	L	E
O	■	I	■	■	■	S	■	■	■	T	■	E	■	L
R	E	T	U	R	N	I	N	G	■	O	U	N	C	E
E	■	I	■	U	■	D	■	R	■	O	■	E	■	M
L	O	Z	E	N	G	E	■	A	N	I	M	A	T	E
E	■	E	■	I	■	R	■	P	■	S	■	T	■	N
I	N	N	I	N	G	S	■	H	A	T	C	H	E	T

QUICK

W	E	A	T	H	E	R	■	S	T	A	D	I	U	M
O	■	B	■	U	■	A	■	U	■	B	■	M	■	A
R	E	S	P	E	C	T	■	B	R	I	G	A	N	D
S	■	C	■	A	■	I	■	S	■	D	■	G	■	N
T	H	O	R	N	■	O	N	T	H	E	L	I	N	E
E	■	N	■	D	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	N	■	S
D	E	D	U	C	T	I	O	N	■	C	H	E	S	S
■	■	■	■	R	■	L	■	C	■	O	■	■	■	■
F	A	N	C	Y	■	L	I	E	I	N	W	A	I	T
O	■	O	■	■	■	G	■	■	■	U	■	R	■	R
R	U	N	A	C	R	O	S	S	■	N	O	B	L	E
E	■	P	■	H	■	T	■	H	■	D	■	I	■	A
S	E	L	L	O	U	T	■	E	R	R	A	T	I	C
A	■	U	■	R	■	E	■	E	■	U	■	E	■	L
W	E	S	T	E	R	N	■	R	E	M	O	R	S	E

India walks tightrope amid Iran conflict

Voices Concern, Urges Restraint And Respect For Sovereignty

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New Delhi: India is deeply concerned over the recent developments in Iran and the Gulf region, the govt said on Saturday, hours after the US-Israel joint military action against Iran and the latter's retaliatory targeting of Gulf states where Washington has military assets. While seeking safety of civilians in a region that is home to a nearly 10-million-strong Indian diaspora, the govt also stressed in its tough balancing act that sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be protected.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian and Israeli counterparts, Seyed Abbas Araghchi and Gideon Sa'ar respectively, to express deep concern and to reiterate India's call for dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate tensions.

India's response in the form of a statement by the ministry of external affairs (MEA) was carefully calibrated as it said that dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. "We urge all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation and prioritise the safety of civilians," said the MEA, adding that Indian missions across the Gulf region were in touch with Indian nationals and had issued appropriate advisories asking them to remain vigilant and follow local security guidance.

There are close to 40,000 Indian citizens in Israel and anywhere between 6,000 and 10,000 in Iran.

With the US and Israel reportedly looking to precipitate a regime change in Iran, India was again forced to walk a diplomatic tightrope, caught between its steady ties with Iran that are based on common regional interests and strong signs of improvement in the critical relationship with the US after a period of extreme turbulence.

INDIANS IN REGION OF CONFLICT

Country	Numbers	Country	Numbers
UAE	3,554,274	Iraq	17,100
Saudi Arabia	2,460,603	Jordan	16,897
Kuwait	993,284	Iran	10,320
Qatar	835,175	Egypt	3,141
Oman	684,771	Lebanon	3,000
Bahrain	323,908	Yemen	700
Israel	20,000	Syria	97
		Palestine	11

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, India, "Population of Overseas Indians"

The attack on Iran also came barely 48 hours after a bilateral meeting between PM Narendra Modi and his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel that saw the leaders discussing US-Iran tensions and Modi offering, if required, India's support for any efforts towards a peaceful resolution. Significantly, in his media remarks during the visit which took place amidst mounting US–Iran friction, Modi said that peace and security in West Asia is directly linked to India's security interests.

The Gulf region is also one of India's most significant and reliable sources of oil and gas. The diaspora, whose well-being is a major priority for Indian govt, is one of the largest sources of remittances for India. The GCC countries – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE – are together also India's largest trading partner bloc.

While India has deepened its strategic partnership with Israel in the past decade or so, its ties with Gulf states have also undergone a complete transformation during this period. India, in fact, now has a strategic partnership with five out of the six GCC countries, moving from the traditional energy buyer-seller relationship to other domains like defence and security, investment, connectivity and technology.

India will be worried about the likely impact of a full-blown regional war on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) project that has already been delayed by the instability in West Asia. During his visit to Israel, Modi had said that both countries will move forward with renewed momentum on initiatives like IMEEC and India–Israel–UAE–USA (I2U2) to promote regional connectivity.

For India, Iran remains a key regional partner, one that New Delhi has not given up on despite President Donald Trump's restoring a maximum pressure campaign against Iran. In Jan this year, India joined China, Pakistan and four other countries in voting against a UN Human Rights Council resolution that strongly deplored the crackdown on protests in Iran and extended the mandate of a fact-finding mission for the country.

According to Indian authorities, it is in India's interests to maintain a functional relationship with Iran, not least because of the strategic Chabahar port in the country that India has helped develop for access to Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan – though the US muddied the picture last year with its decision to revoke a sanctions waiver for the port that is expected to come into effect in late April.

Exporters flag supply chain disruption

Exporters are worried about disruption in the supply chain due to the latest conflict in West Asia as shipments, both inbound and those headed to the US and Europe, may get delayed. If the conflict persists, ships may be forced to take a longer route, adding two weeks of sailing time. It also means that businesses will need to rework their schedules and plan for higher liquidity.

"Air routes are being altered, and maritime trade through the Red Sea and key Gulf straits faces heightened uncertainty. If diversions become prolonged, shipments may increasingly have to reroute via the Cape of Good Hope, adding an estimated 15-20 days to transit time for Europe and the US," said Fieo president S C Ralhan, adding that insurance premium also would rise. TNN

March 5 exam: 1.2k desi med students left waiting in Iran

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

NYT
TEHRAN TURMOIL

Around 1,200 Indian students remain in Iran after US and Israeli strikes began on Saturday, the Jammu & Kashmir Students Association claimed, urging the govt to be prepared with an evacuation plan if situation worsens.

Faizan Nabi, 22, Iran coordinator of J&KSA and a third-semester MBBS student at Kerman University of Medical Sciences in southwestern Iran, said nearly half of the Indian students had returned home after the Indian embassy in Tehran issued an advisory on Feb 23 asking nationals to leave by available means.

However, a significant number chose to remain as they were scheduled to appear for two exams conducted by Iran's ministry of health and medical education on March 5 — a comprehensive general science test and another linked to internship eligibility under the MBBS curriculum.

"Many believed they would complete the exams and then leave. They did not anticipate a sudden escalation," Nabi said. Most of the Indian nationals currently in Iran are medical students enrolled across varsities in different provinces, with a majority hailing from J&K, along with students from Kerala, UP and other states.

On Saturday, Indian embassy in Iran issued a fresh advisory on its X handle urging all Indian nationals in that country to exercise utmost caution.

"Avoid unnecessary movements and remain indoors. Indians may continue to monitor news, maintain situational awareness and await further guidance from the embassy of India. The emergency contact details of the embassy are: +989128109115, +989128109109, +989932179359," read the advisory.

Nabi added that internet and mobile connectivity were disrupted in parts of Iran from Saturday morning, limiting real-time communication. "Parents in India are anxious and contacting us for updates. After considerable effort, we managed to share details of the stranded students with officials at the Indian embassy in Tehran through SMS. Govt has cooperated with us earlier, and we hope preparations are made in case evacuation becomes necessary," he said.

An MBBS student from Isfahan, who returned to India via Baku five days ago and requested anonymity, said the atmosphere in Tehran had appeared subdued in the days leading up to the strikes. "There were noticeably fewer people outside in the evenings. It felt like something was anticipated," he said, adding that students who stayed back did so largely because of academic commitments.

Meanwhile, Iranian nationals residing in India expressed sharply divided and emotionally charged reactions to the developments. Mohammed, who agreed to be identified by his first name and has lived in Delhi for over a decade, described the moment as decisive. "After the deaths of thousands of people, including women and children, at the hands of regime forces during recent mass protests, we hope the regime is finally toppled. People of Iran have suffered a lot. We hope to celebrate Nowruz on Mar 20 in a free Iran," he said.

Cong condemns US-Israel attack on Iran, calls upon Centre to help bring hostilities to an 'immediate end'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress Saturday condemned the attacks launched on Iran by the US and Israel, and called upon Indian govt to help bring the hostilities to an "immediate end" and ensure the safety of all Indians in West Asia.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X, "For weeks President Trump maintained the charade of diplomacy and negotiations with Iran. Egged on by the Israeli PM Mr Netanyahu and hawks in the US, he has launched a military offensive aimed at achieving regime change."

Ramesh said Congress "condemns this attack" and "calls upon the govt to help bring the hostilities to an end."

Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said his party is deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in the region, following the recent military escalation targeting Iran. "Peace and stability in the region are paramount and must be preserved," Kharge said in a post on X.

MP Rahul Gandhi said, "The rapidly escalating hostilities between US-Israel and Iran are concerning. "The safety and security of every Indian citizen across the Middle East must be our highest priority."

Meanwhile, Congress termed PM Modi's visit to Israel "shameful" and "ill-timed," saying it creates perception of a political endorsement of military escalation which is deeply antithetical to India's historic commitment to a rules-based international order.

Ramesh said that two days after Modi "celebrated his visit to Israel", Israel and US began their joint assault on Iran. "This was expected given their military build-up in last few months. Mr. Modi nevertheless chose to go to Israel, where he displayed the highest moral cowardice. He said that India stood with Israel and got himself an award for saying so."

Refrain from childish comments: BJP to Cong

BJP lashed out at Congress for targeting PM Modi over the US-Israel military strikes on Iran and asked it to refrain from making immature comments on geo-political developments. "If Congress and Rahul Gandhi consider themselves Indian, they must refrain from making any childish comment. They must also have faith in the govt," BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.

Asked about Congress' swipe at Modi over US and Israeli attack on Iran, Bhatia said, "Congress has stooped to shamelessness. It has become its nature to make negative comments on any sensitive developing story." He said it is sad that "such kind of a war" has begun, adding, "this is a strong (BJP-led) govt. It will take all the decisions in the interest of Bharat and its people." TNN

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

Brent crude may climb to $80 if geopolitical tensions persist

▸Continued from page 1

Officials said this share increased to about 50% in the first two months of this year. About half of the LNG supplies reaching India also transit through this route.

With limited alternatives to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, any disruption would have major consequences for global oil markets. It would not only trigger a surge in global crude prices, but diversification of imports would also add to freight and insurance costs. According to analysts, Brent crude has already risen from about $65 per barrel to $72-73 in the past few days and may climb to $80 if geopolitical tensions persist. Every $10 per barrel increase in crude prices could add $13-14 billion annually to India's import bill.

In India, officials said preemptive measures such as strengthening strategic oil reserves and diversifying imports from 41 countries are already in place. India may also explore importing part of its West Asian supplies through the 360km Habshan-Fujairah oil pipeline, which has a capacity of 1.5 mbpd, and the 1,200km East-West crude oil pipeline controlled by Saudi Aramco (capacity of 5 mbpd).

Services suspended; Long-haul routes hit

▸Continued from page 1

The Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi said it was "in touch with UAE authorities and airlines for taking care of Indian passengers stranded at airports in UAE..." The impact rippled to India's gateways. Fifty-seven flights were cancelled at Mumbai airport by 5.45pm Saturday — 24 arrivals and 33 departures. Fares surged. A one-way direct ticket to London touched Rs 1.4 lakh for March 1 travel.

Airline suspensions widened through the day. Air India cancelled several long-haul flights scheduled for Sunday, including services from Delhi, Mumbai and Amritsar to London, New York, Chicago, Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris. The airline said passengers are being informed and offered alternative travel options.

IndiGo said operations to and from West Asia and select international sectors were suspended through March 1. Emirates said it had temporarily suspended operations to and from Dubai.

Air India cancelled several long-haul flights scheduled for Sunday, including services from Delhi, Mumbai and Amritsar

Meanwhile, airlines warned pilots of intensified GPS spoofing and jamming near conflict zones. For Indian carriers, airspace west of Pakistan to Iraq became off-limits. IndiGo's CIS routes were also hit. Air India sought clearance to use China's Hotan waypoint to bypass Pakistani airspace, a request still pending.

Europe's aviation watchdog EUASA issued a conflict-zone bulletin urging airlines not to operate "within the affected airspace at all flight levels and altitudes". India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation echoed the warning in an urgent advisory effective through March 2

Alert driver averts accident

Bettiah: A major train accident was narrowly averted near Kumarbagh railway station in Bihar's West Champaran district on Saturday morning after the driver of Bagaha–Patliputra Intercity Express spotted damage on the newly laid track and applied the emergency brakes in time. Technical and engineering teams rushed to the spot and repaired the track. The train, stranded for several hours, was allowed to proceed only after officials granted safety clearance.

Samastipur DRM Jyoti Prakash Mishra said, "An investigation has been launched to ascertain whether there were lapses." TNN

All my friends are on it! How to set boundaries without breaking bonds

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI's ***Talk it Out*** *series brings expert counsellors to answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from clinical psychologist* ***Soumali Bardhan***

My 12-year-old daughter has been insisting that we allow her to join social media because all her friends are on it. She says she feels left out as all her other friends use social media. She also claims we are being too strict compared to other parents. We are worried about her exposure to inappropriate content, online strangers and the pressure that comes with social media at such a young age. At the same time, we don't want her to feel isolated from her peer group. How do we handle this without damaging our relationship with her?

— Anonymous

Image: AI

You may allow her to use either of your social media profiles to talk to her friends for a limited amount of time each day on a device owned by you. This way, it would be easier to keep track of her activities. Similarly, she can use your WhatsApp account to talk to her friends (again, for a limited period per day). You may allow her to watch certain entertainment apps such as Netflix from a child-specific profile. Do not leave devices or accounts signed-in or without password protection as she may use them without your consent. Helping a child understand the logic behind imposed restrictions is important. So please consider taking her to a clinical psychologist who can use professional techniques to help her understand and acknowledge why it's necessary to apply the restrictions in the first place.

I am a 26-year-old IT professional working from home. I find myself perpetually switching between work tabs and social media tabs, which has reduced my productivity. I take twice as long to complete tasks. How can I improve focus while working digitally all day?

— Anonymous

Make a fixed time table for yourself and ensure you have a separate time of the day for social media surfing or watching reels and videos. Make sure you sign out of all social media platforms after each time you use them. Signing in multiple times can act as a (much needed) deterrent. Do not save your passwords so that you need to enter them physically on each visit. Turn off all your notifications so that they do not tempt you to stray. Lastly, set a time limit for the work to be completed and set a self-imposed reward or punishment system for this.

I am a class 10 student preparing for my boards. But instead of sleeping, I stay up late scrolling through reels. I tell myself I will sleep early every day, but end up using my phone till 2 am. The next day, I feel tired, irritated and unable to concentrate in school. How can I break this habit?

— Anonymous

First, you need to strengthen your motivation to break this habit. List five things you would want to achieve in life by the time you are 25, and keep small photographs or posters of the same in or around your study area. Every time you sit to study, take a minute to remind yourself what all your efforts are for. A simple way to manage digital media addiction is to create a daily schedule where screen time is specific and limited. Install an app that tracks the amount of social media usage and ask your parents to note the data every day for you to see. Finally, fix a specific time for bed and handover all your digital devices to your parents 15 minutes prior to bed time. Ask them to strictly keep it under lock and key. Don't worry if you cannot fall asleep immediately, your biological clock will reset itself with habit.

I am a 20-year-old college student. I feel that I've lost my attention span. I cannot read even two pages of a book without picking up my phone in between. Earlier, I used to enjoy reading but now, I feel mentally scattered all the time. Is it because of my phone addiction? Can it be reversed?

— Anonymous

Phone addiction, or rather digital media addiction, is one the banes of human society in modern times. It will take both time and effort for you to reverse this. Try logging out of all social media accounts and putting your devices on "no disturbance" mode before you sit down with a book. Another helpful technique is removing notification permission for all the social media apps so that they do not draw your attention. Restart your reading journey with short stories and then gradually move back into longer stories and novels. Lastly, you may try to positively reinforce the reading habit by rewarding yourself with something you like every time you finish a story.

Scan the QR to take a scientific psychological assessment of your digital habits

If digital addiction is affecting you or someone close to you, we're here to listen. Email your question, name, and location to **talkitout@timesofindia.com.** If you'd like to keep your identity confidential, please state that in your message.

HC steps in after 5 of 37 pet dogs seized from woman's flat die

Pinto.Deepak@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The Telangana high court directed the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to inspect a new site identified by Kameshwari Pidaparthi, an entrepreneur, to house her 32 dogs. The canines were among 37 dogs seized from her Gachibowli flat last month following numerous noise complaints by her neighbours.

A division bench comprising the chief justice, Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, and Justice G M Mohiuddin issued the orders on Feb 26 while hearing an appeal by People for Animals (PFA), an NGO seeking to put the animals up for adoption. The legal battle intensified as Kameshwari blamed the NGO for the recent death of five of her dogs while in its custody.

Shreya Paropkari, PFA's counsel, told the bench that the dogs succumbed to parvovirus infections. It said none of the rescued dogs had been vaccinated and having never left the confines of the flat, they were highly vulnerable to the virus.

PM woos global investors at chip plant launch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Amid intensifying geopolitical conflicts and trade tensions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch on Saturday for India as a preferred investment destination. "India is capable, India is competitive, and India is committed. Today, India has only one message for investors worldwide: India is ready, India is reliable, and India will deliver," Modi said.

Speaking after inaugurating US-based chip giant Micron Technology's ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) plant at Sanand, the first such facility in the country, Modi said Gujarat would provide the lifestyle and social life that international companies desire.

"A small town (Sanand) suddenly found its place on the global map. Development and systems are needed; perhaps even today you may have thoughts like, 'It would be nice if this were there.' I assure you, friends, the lifestyle you desire, the social life you desire, the way you live your life, Gujarat will create that too. We will not let you feel anything is lacking." He said after establishing itself as a software powerhouse, the country is "firmly establishing its identity" in the hardware sector too. The PM said that that until 10-11 years ago, discussions about data and chips in India were confined to very close circles, and these often revolved only around IT services.

PM Modi at the Micron semiconductor assembly and test facility, Sanand, Saturday

16-yr-old gives birth in college loo, returns to write exam

Hyderabad: A 16-year-old intermediate student gave birth a stillborn baby girl while appearing for an examination at a govt college in Telangana's Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Friday.

Police said, the girl reached the exam centre to write her paper. During the exam, she sought permission from the invigilator to use the washroom. When she did not return for a long time, the invigilator alerted staff to check on her. As staff headed towards the washroom, they saw the student returning.

Questioned about the delay, the student did not give convincing answers. Later, when housekeeping staff went to clean the washroom, they found a stillborn baby. The college management was informed, and police were alerted. During preliminary inquiry, it was found that the teenager was the last to use the washroom, and the invigilator confirmed she had taken a break during the exam.

After giving birth to the stillborn baby, the student returned to the exam hall. TNN

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FM says she will look into allegations of GST dept overreach after Mohandas Pai raised concerns over arrest of Fino Bank CEO in GST evasion case P 7

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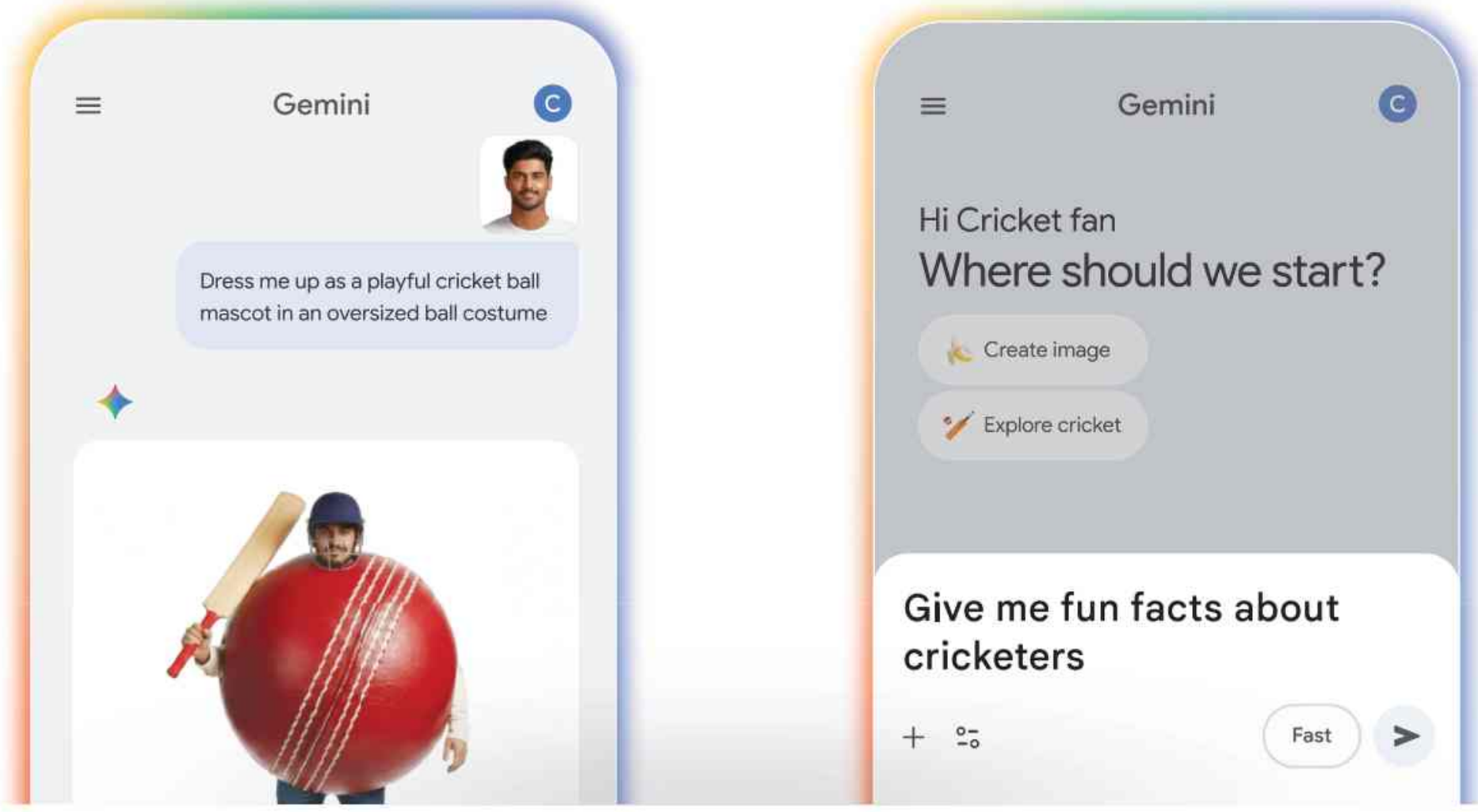

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